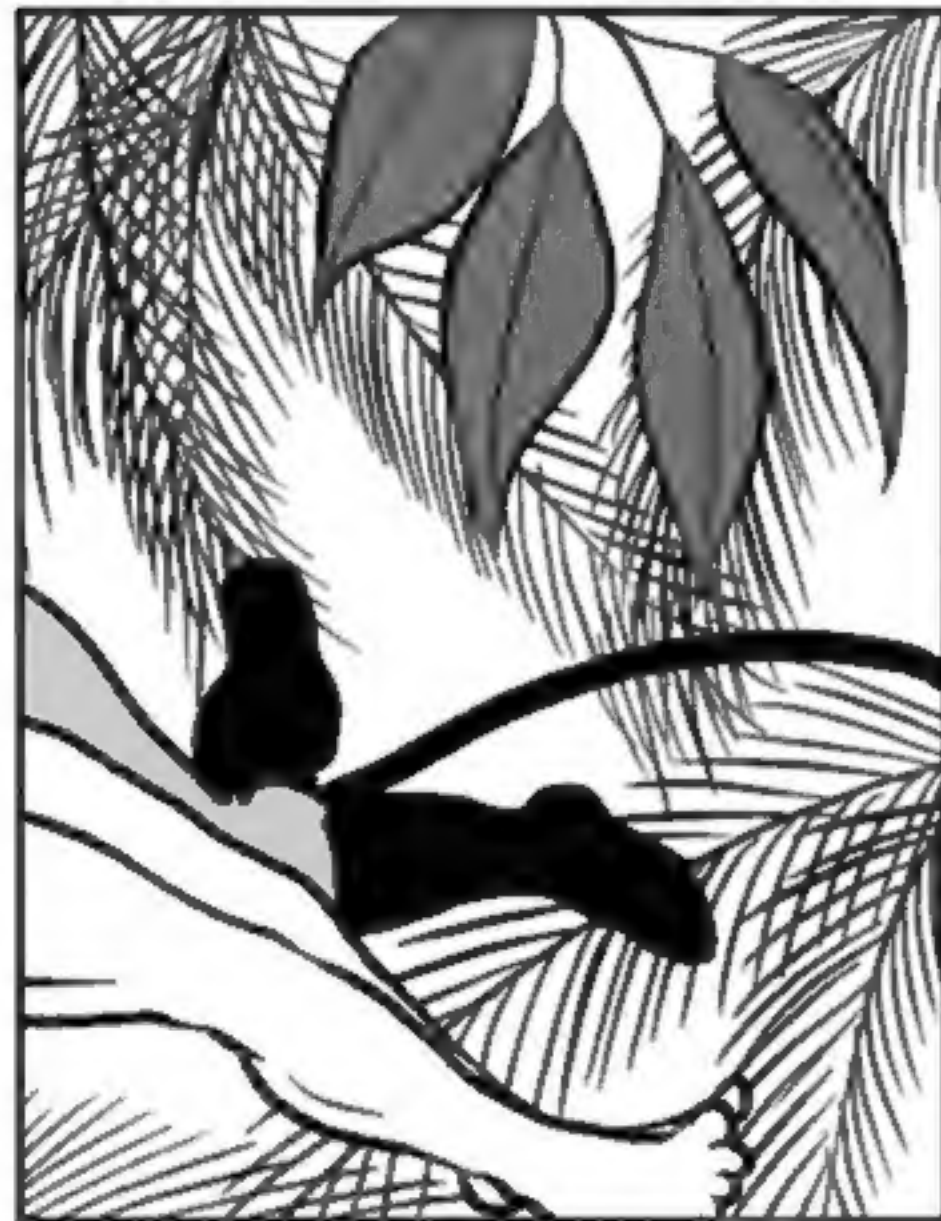




2004

SHE'S MUMBLING IN
HER SLEEP. I WONDER
IF SHE'S HAVING A
BAD DREAM.



SHE MUTTERED, "WAKE ME,
AND I'LL SEVER THE SPINAL
CORD AT THE BASE OF YOUR
SKULL AND SPREAD-EAGLE
YOU ON AN
ANTHILL."



BEFORE YOU POUND ME,
QUESTION FOR A MOMENT
WHAT IT IS ABOUT A PERSON
OF YOUR BUILD AND INTEL-
LECT THAT MANDATES YOU
METE OUT CORPORAL PUNISH-
MENT TO SUCH
AS I.



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IS IT CHRONIC, INELUCTABLE
DISCOMFITURE OVER YOUR
MANIFEST INFERIORITY?
OR IS IT FRUSTRATION THAT,
UNLIKE THE GIBBON AT THE
ZOO, YOU SIMPLY HAVE
NO EXCREMENT TO THROW?



BUT HE HIT
ME!



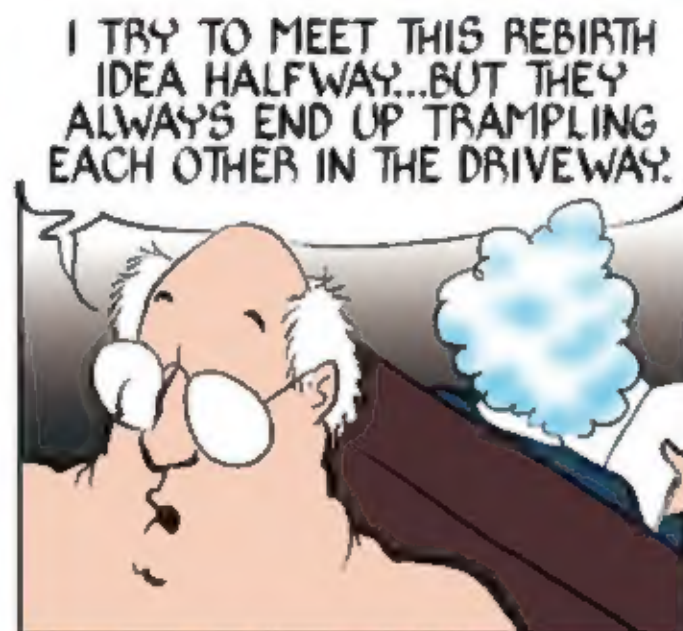
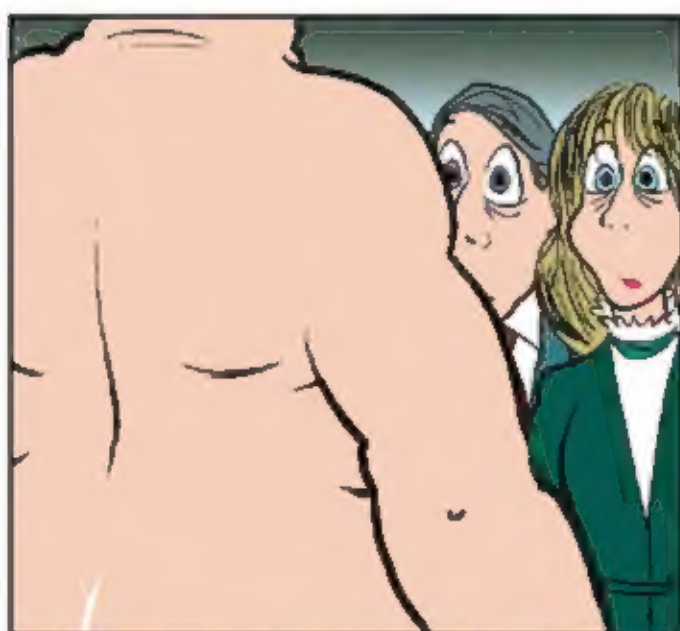
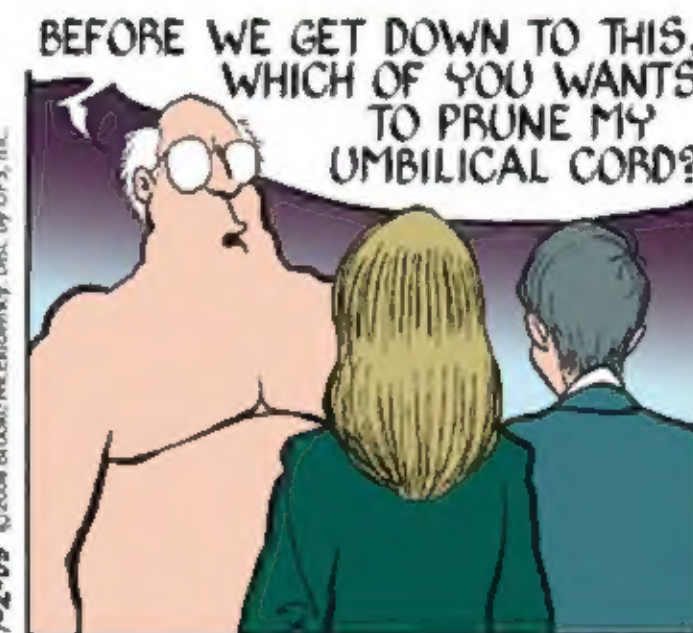
NEVERTHELESS,
I'M PUTTING YOU
ON DETENTION
FOR GIVING HIM
IDEAS.



Brooke



9 CHICKWEED LANE





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Brooke
FACTORING IN THE ADDED LATERAL
MOVEMENT, I'VE CALCULATED THAT
ON A COLD DAY WOMEN'S HIPS
SUFFER GREATER WIND CHILL
EXPOSURE THAN MEN'S.



YOU WERE OGLING MY
FIGURE WHILE I WALKED...
YET ALL YOU COULD THINK
OF WAS THE CHILL FACTOR
GENERATED BY THE WIND
SPEED AROUND
MY HIPS?!



WELL, I DID COME UP WITH
SOME ROUGH CALCULATIONS
IN NAUTICAL MILES PER
HOUR, BUT I THINK THEY'RE
SOUND.



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I'M THAT
SEXY?

NUMBERS
DON'T LIE.

AMOS CALCULATED WIND
SPEED AND CHILL FACTOR
AROUND EDDA'S HIPS, AND
CAME UP WITH SOME
ASTONISHING RESULTS.
SO I ASKED HIM
TO RUN THE
NUMBERS
ON ME
AS
WELL.



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DO YOU THINK THIS
HAS ANY
THEORETICAL
VALIDITY?



SAPRISTI! YOU MAKE MY SOUL
A CAULDRON
OF FIRE!

FIRST, YOU HAVE TO
KNOW WHAT TURNS
A SCIENTIST ON.



Brooke

WHEN ELLIOTT AND I KISS,
I REALIZE IT MAY LOOK
RATHER SENSUAL
TO YOU...

NOT
AT
ALL.



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WELL...PASSIONATE...

NO.

ROMANTIC.

HUH-UH...

DEEPLY
AFFECTIONATE.

NOPE.



FRIENDLY?

NO.

PLATONIC?

LOOK...

VAGUELY
SOCIAL?

MOM...

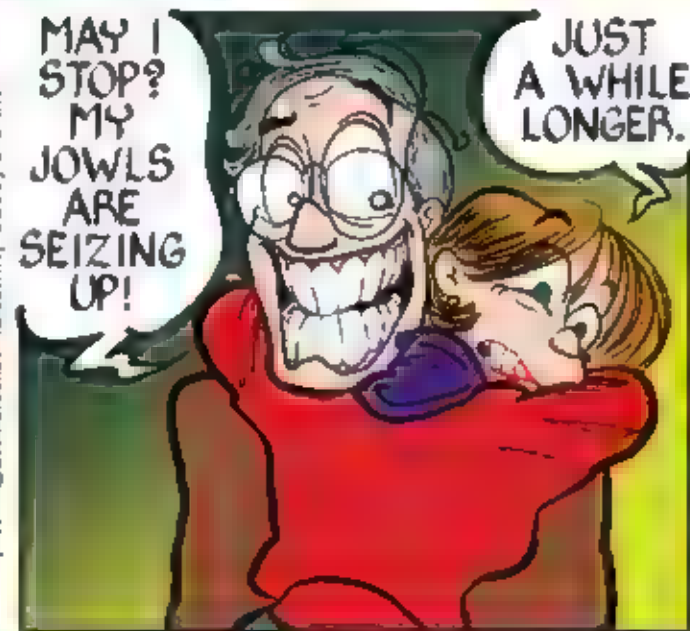
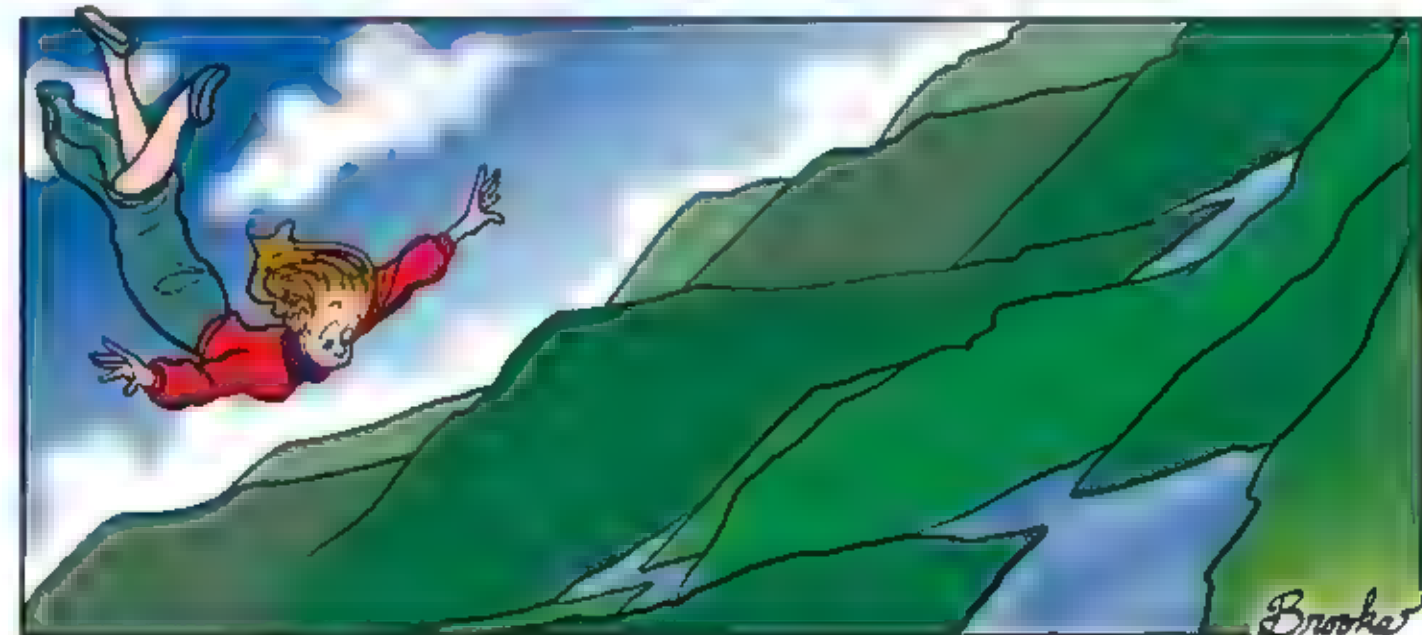
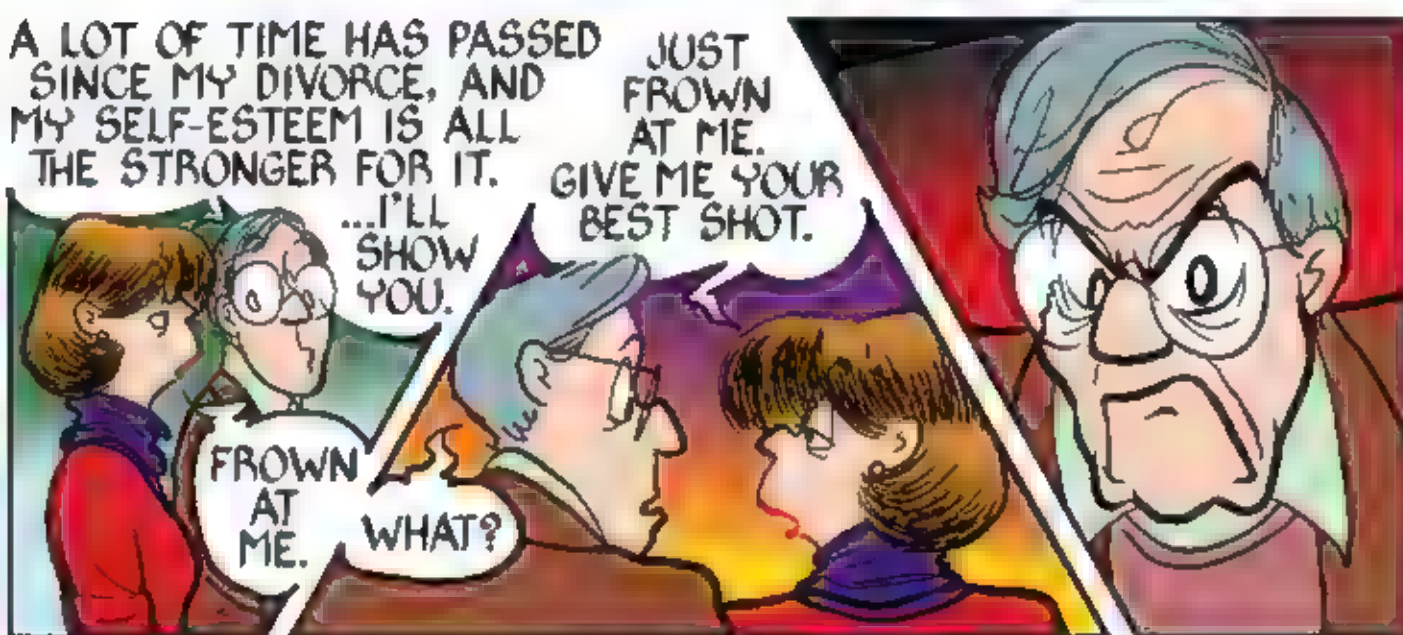
LET'S
CUT TO
THE CHASE.

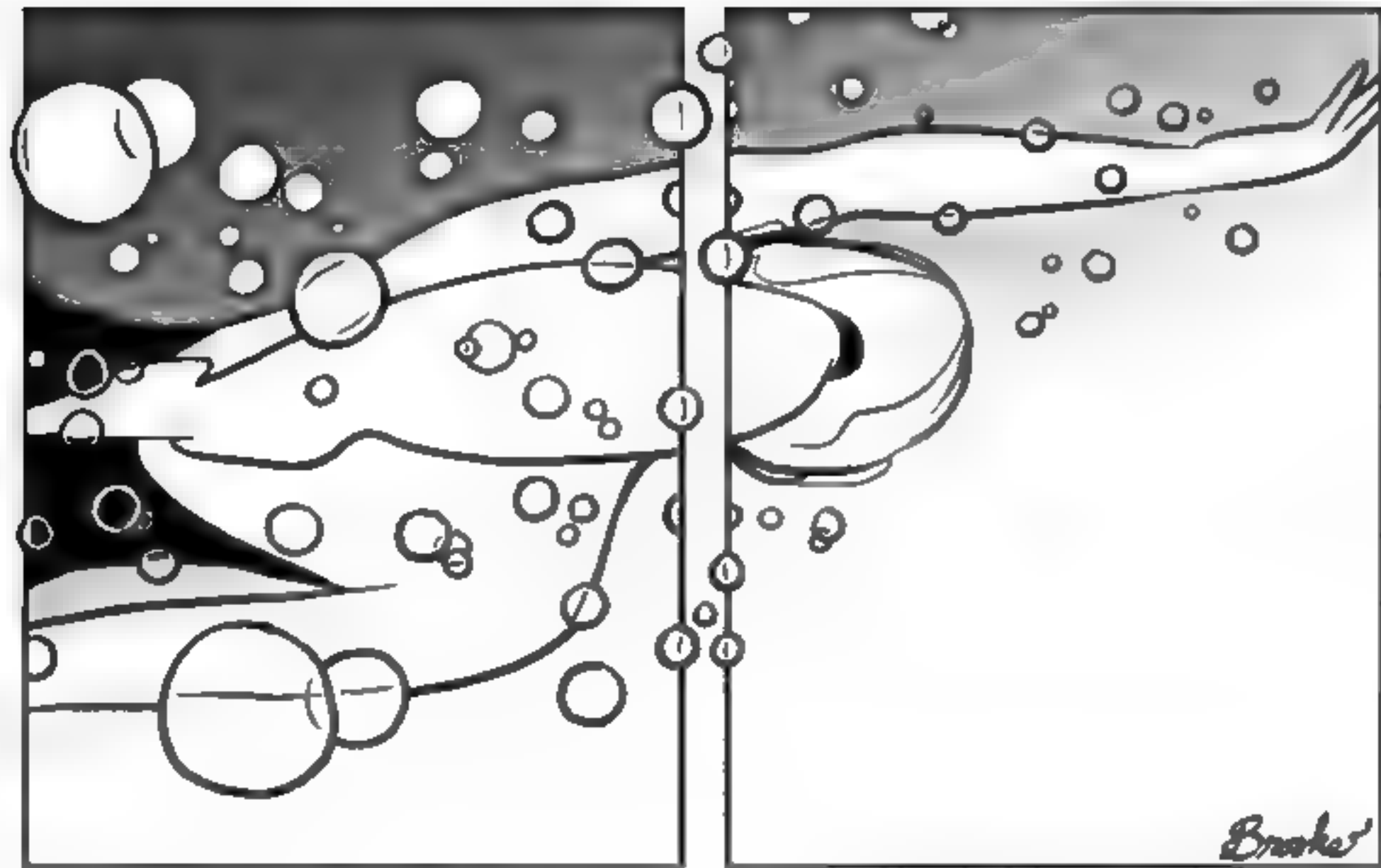
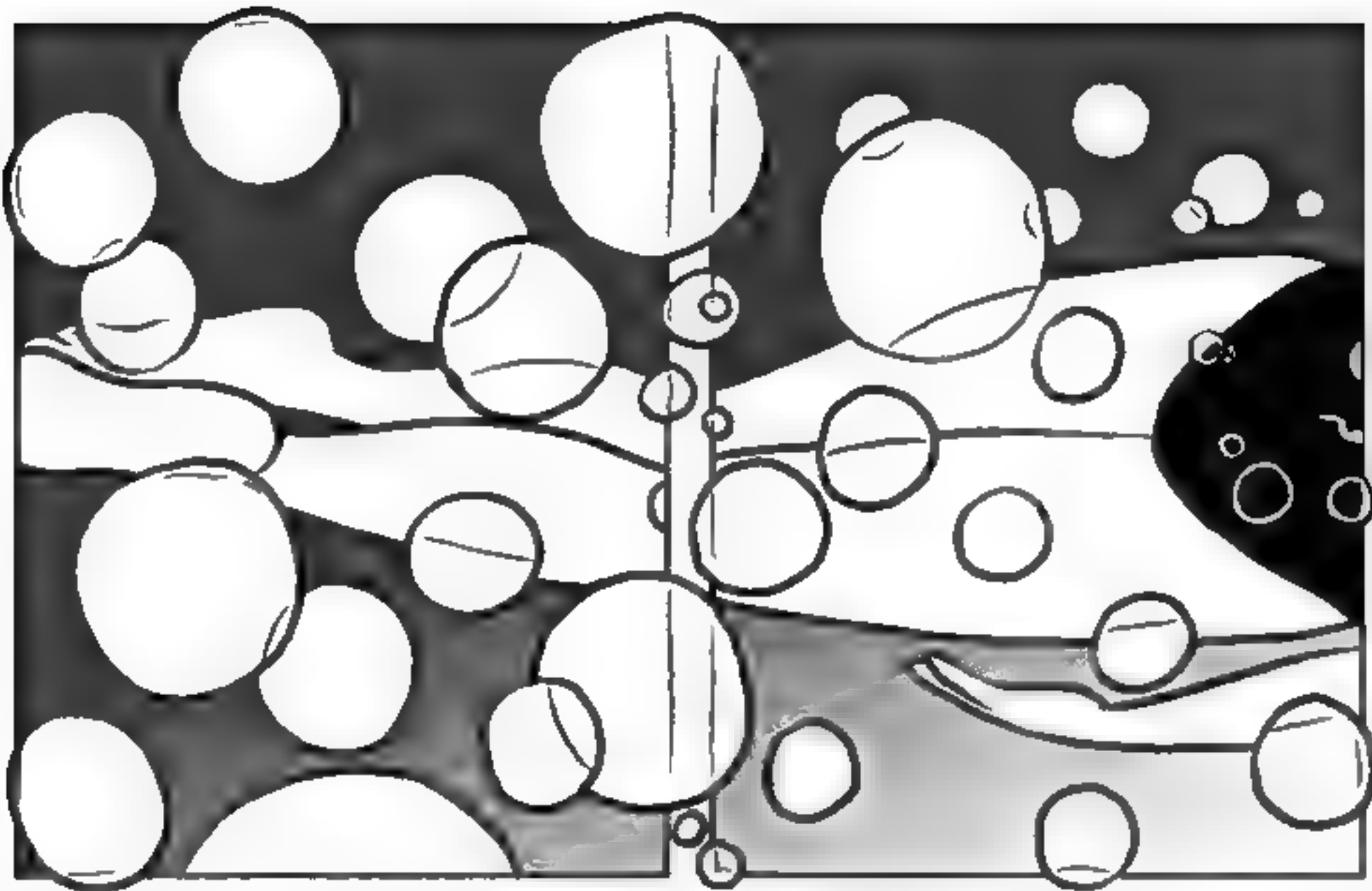


I THOUGHT PEOPLE WERE
AVERTING THEIR EYES
TO GIVE US PRIVACY.









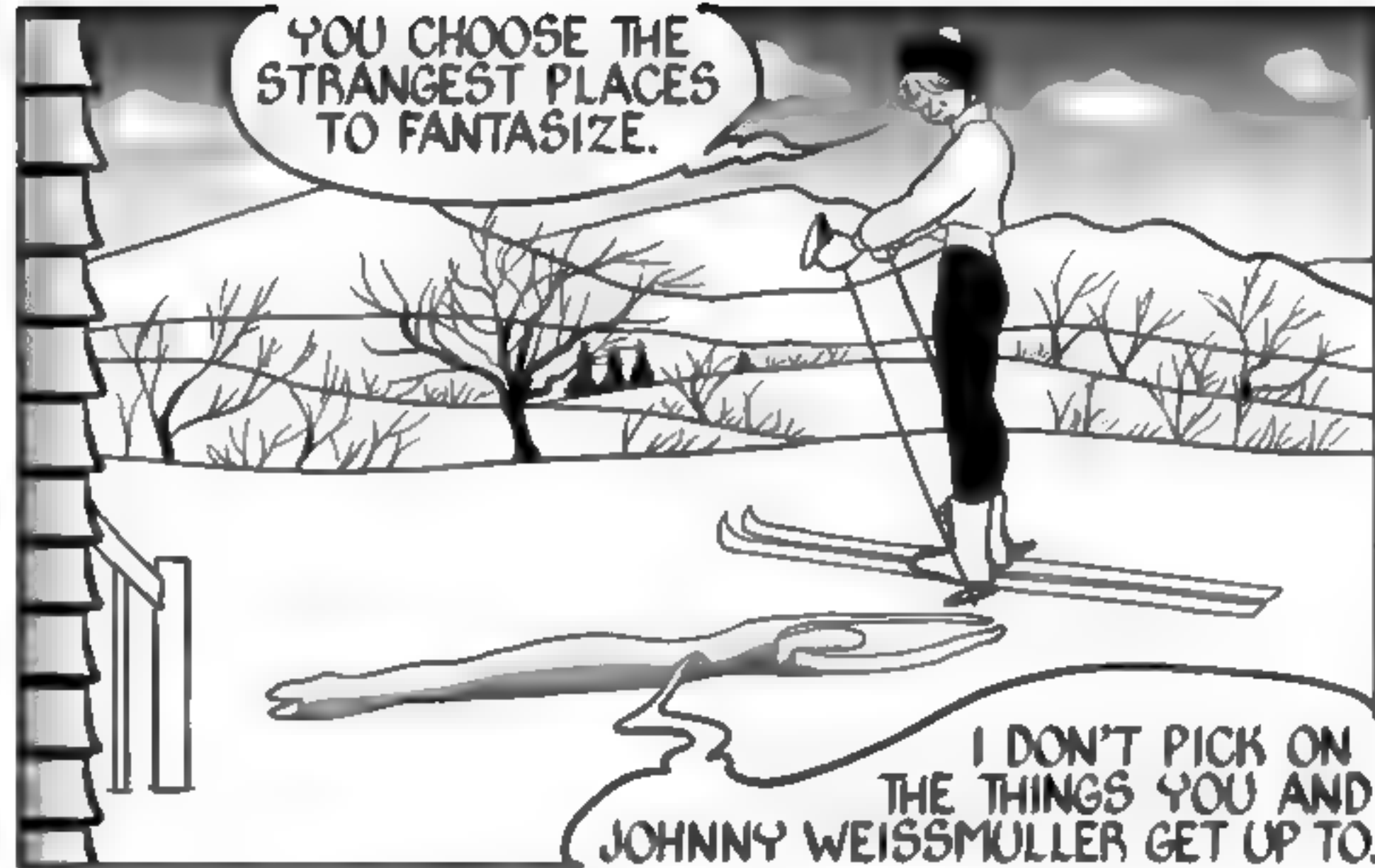
Brooke







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I'M SORRY, AMOS...
I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN
TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS.



THE THING IS, I NEVER
CONSIDERED WHAT I WAS
SAYING...IT JUST CAME
OUT WITHOUT INTENT OR
FORETHOUGHT.

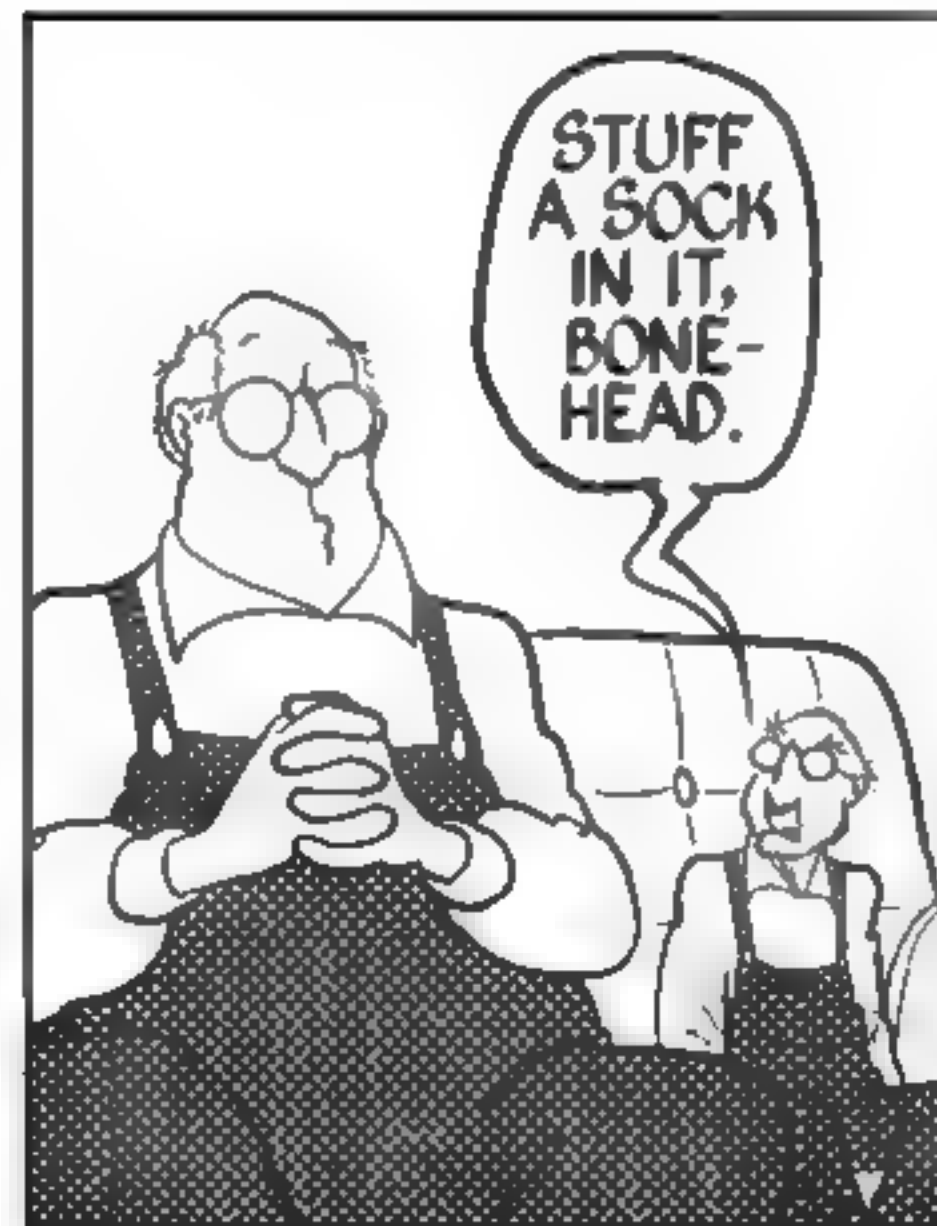


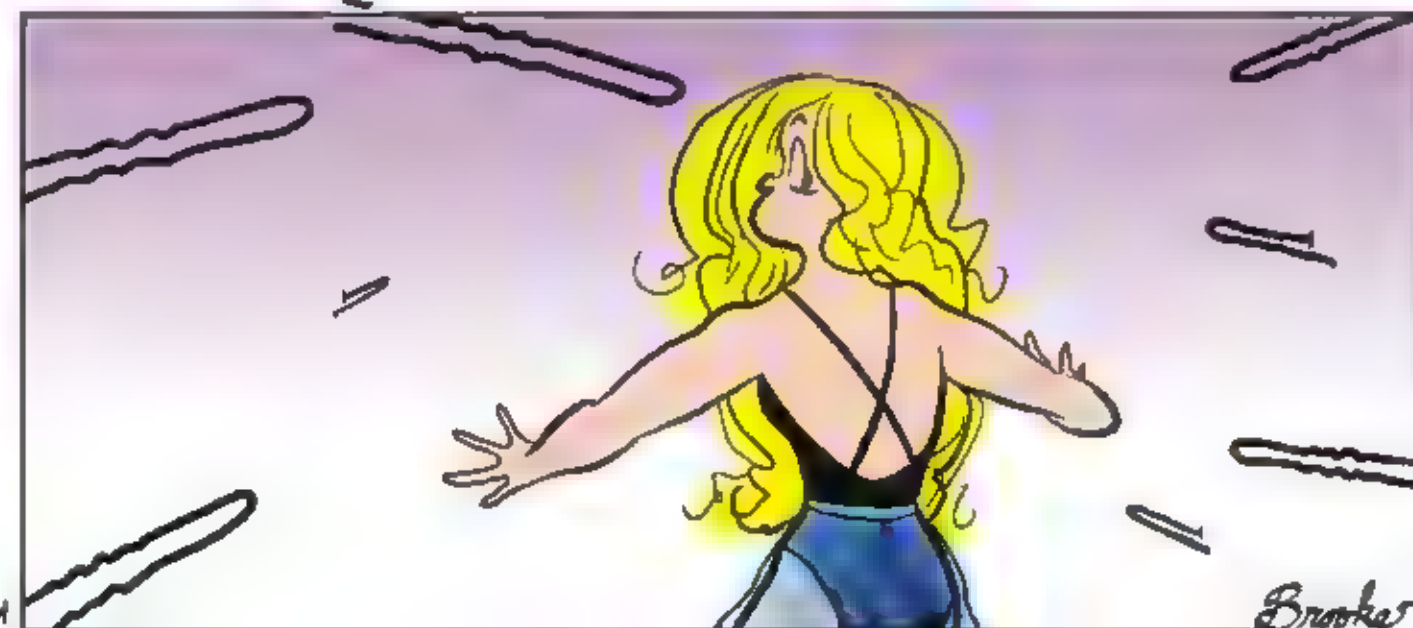
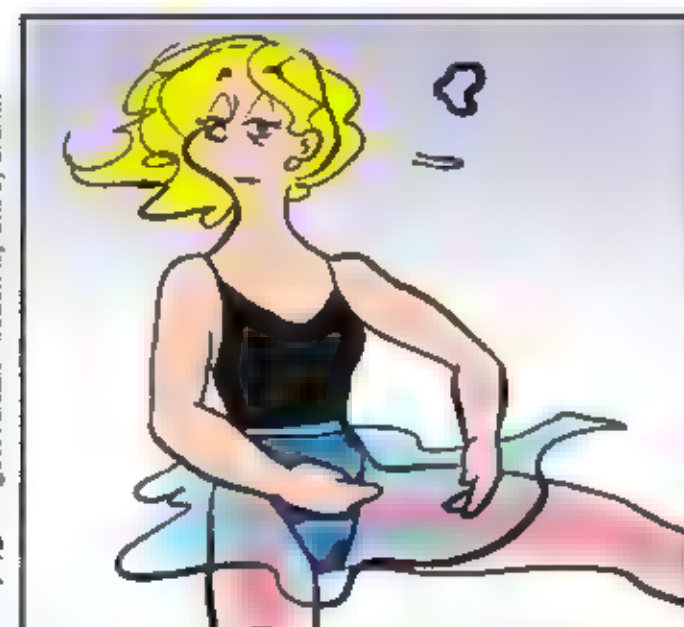
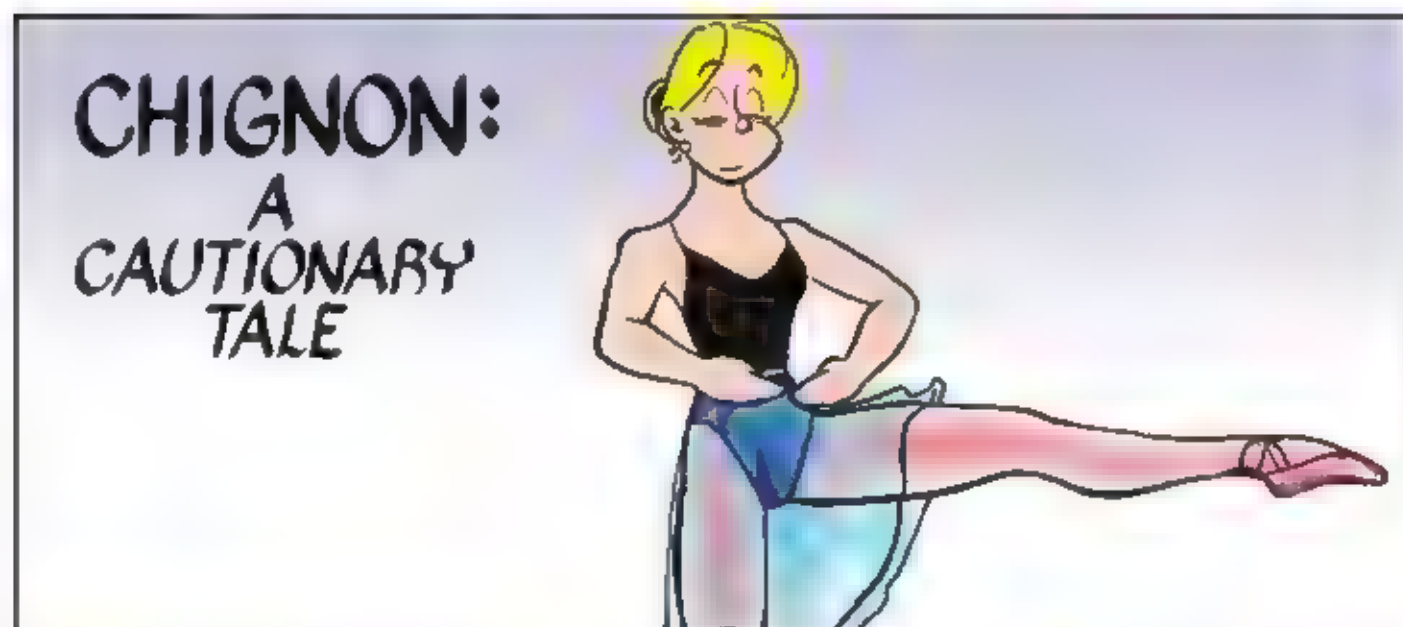
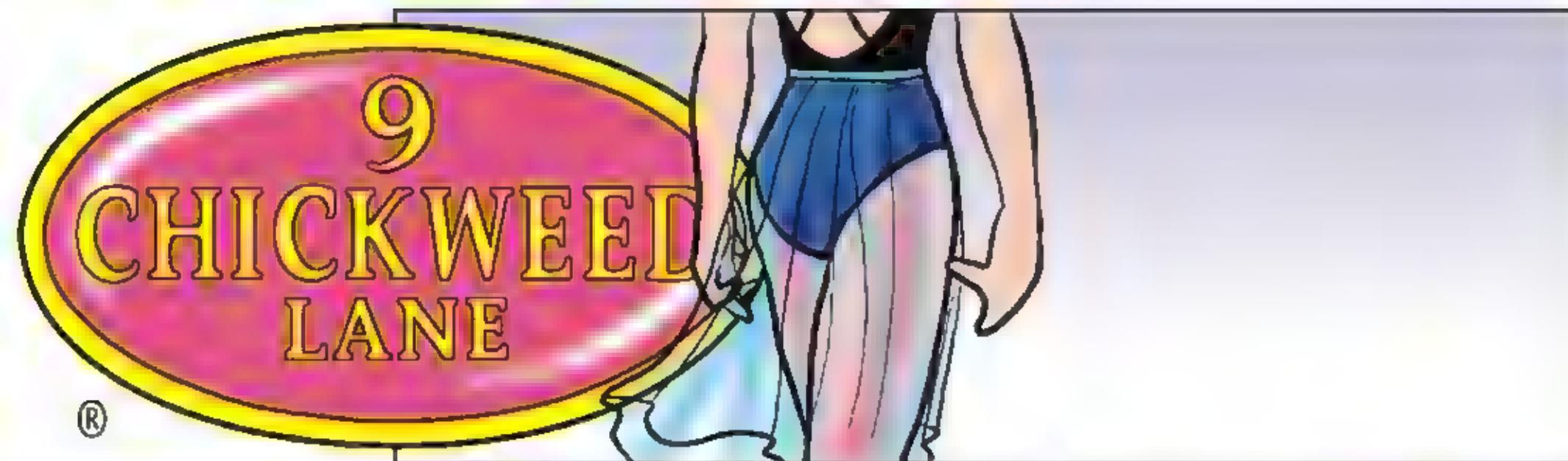
GEE, YOU MUST BE SOME
KIND OF INSULT VIRTUOSO
...YOU CAN DO IT SO
EFFORTLESSLY.



WHEREAS
I DO IT WITH
SURGICAL
PRECISION.

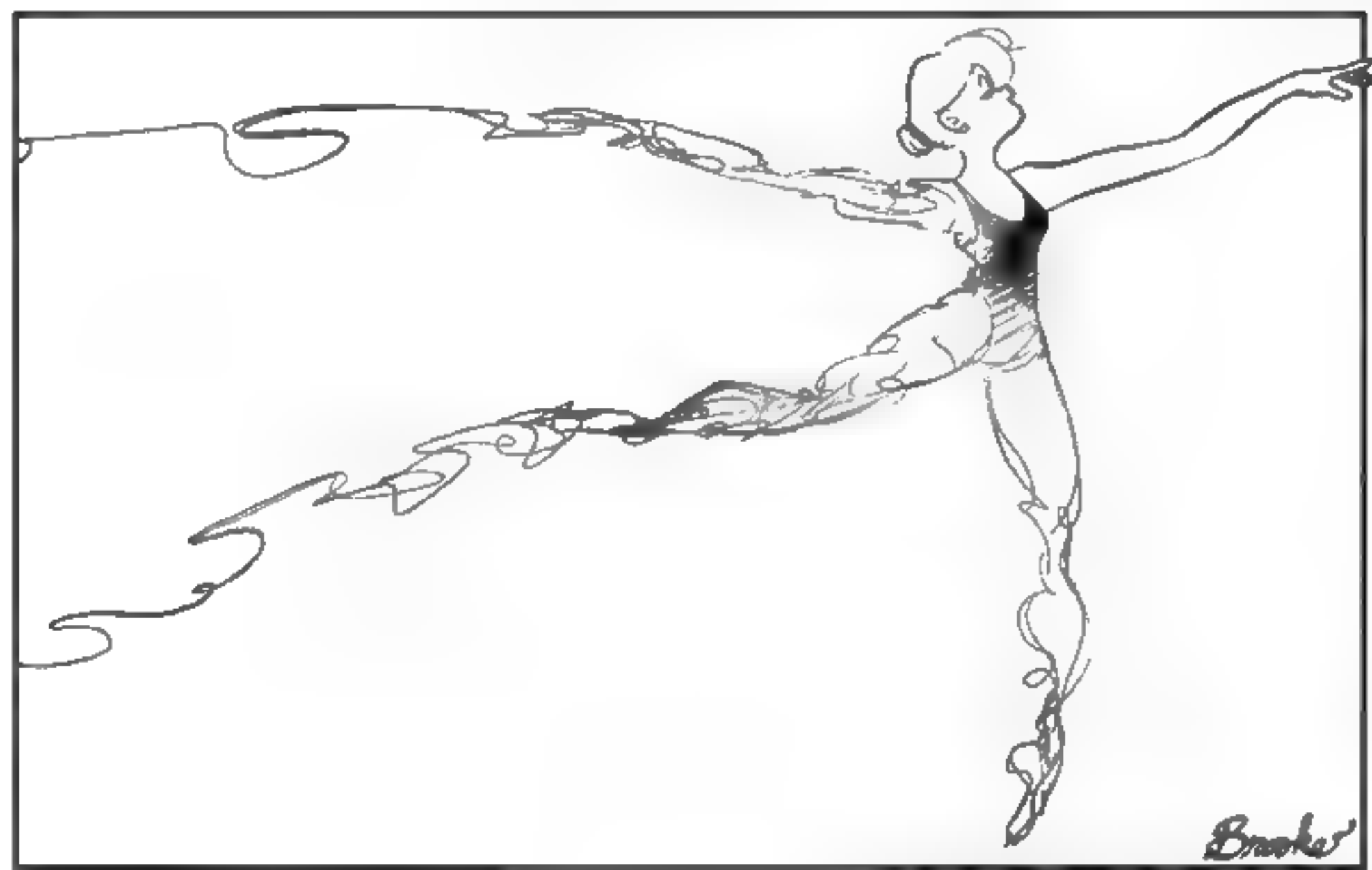
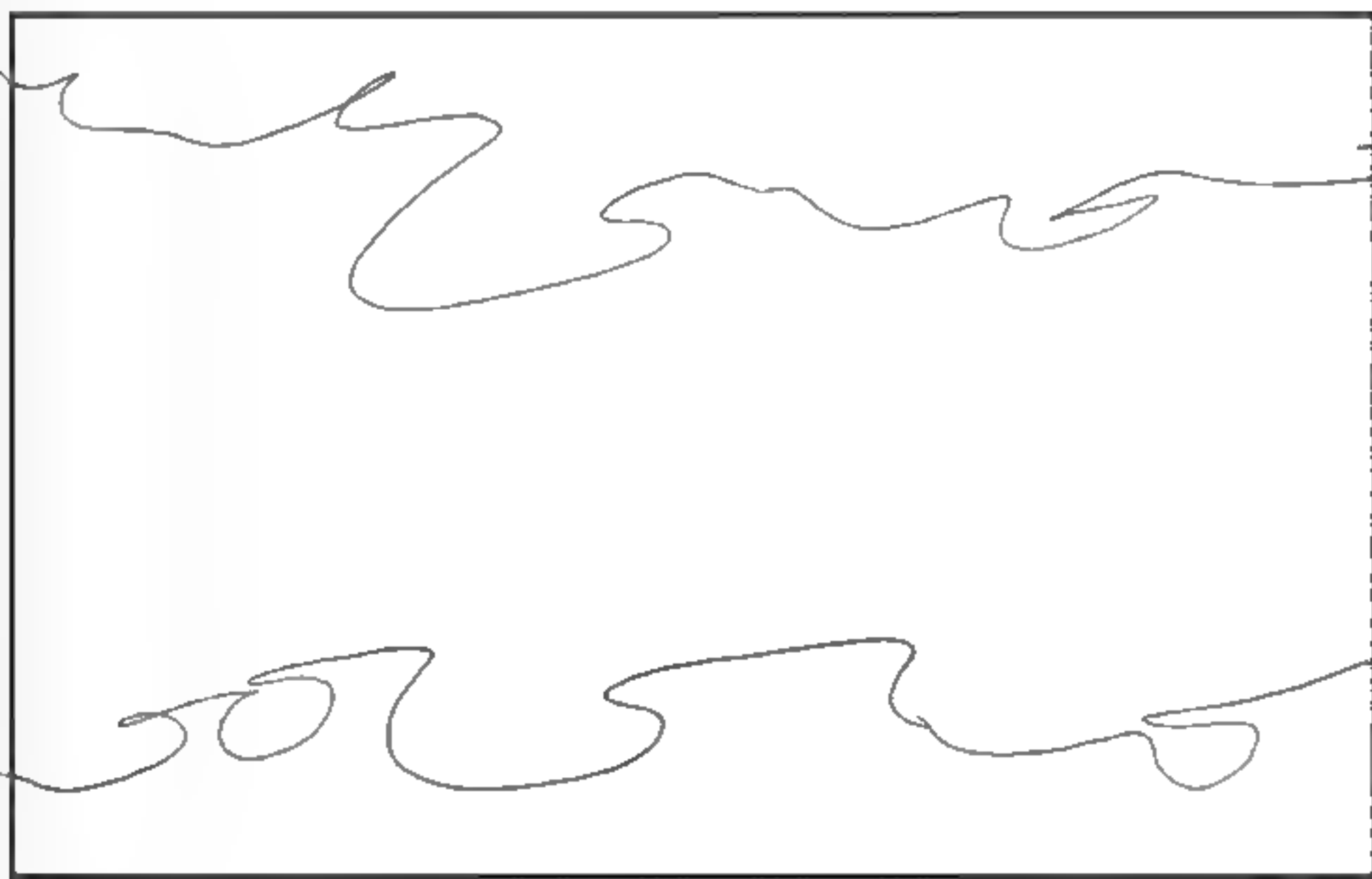






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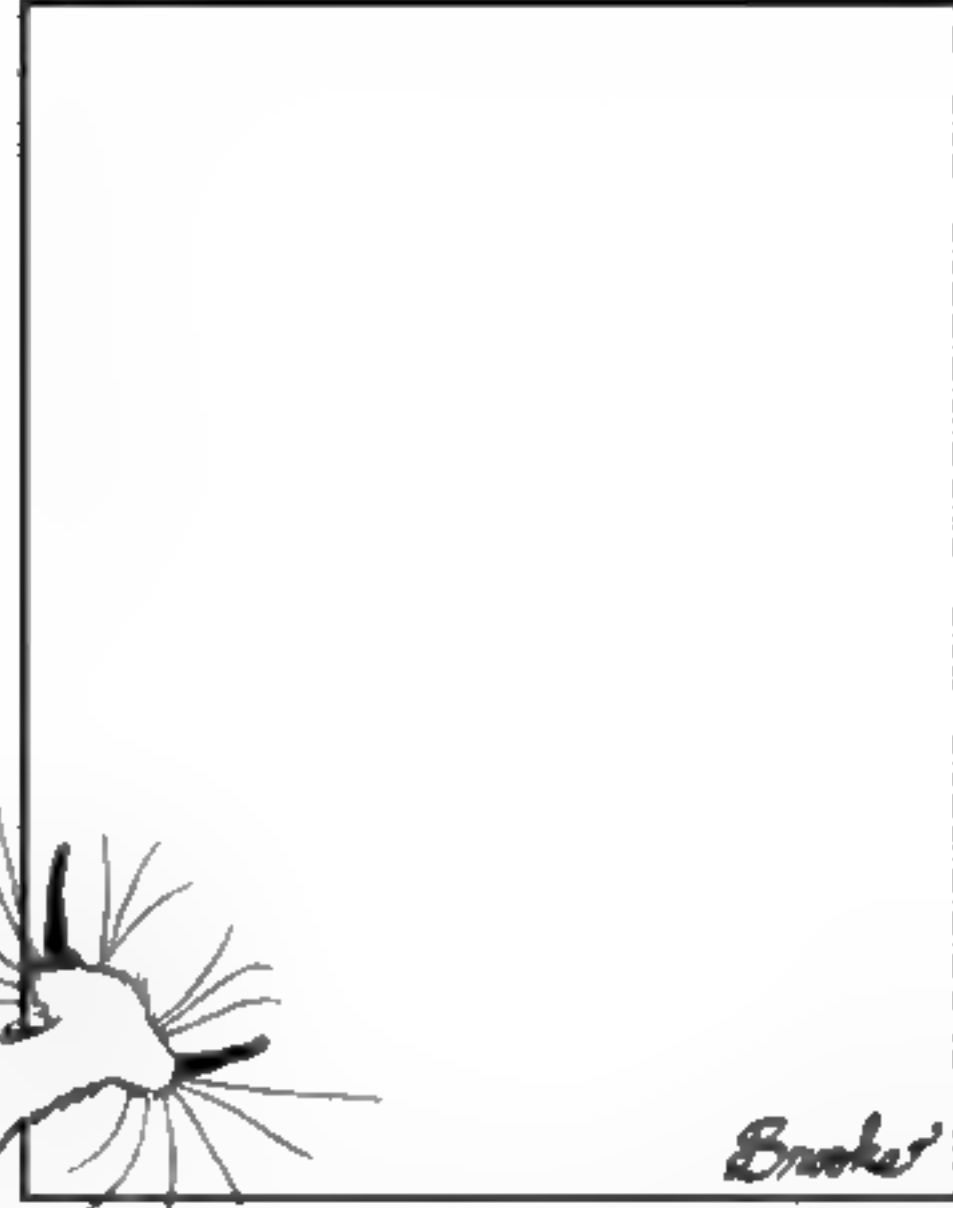




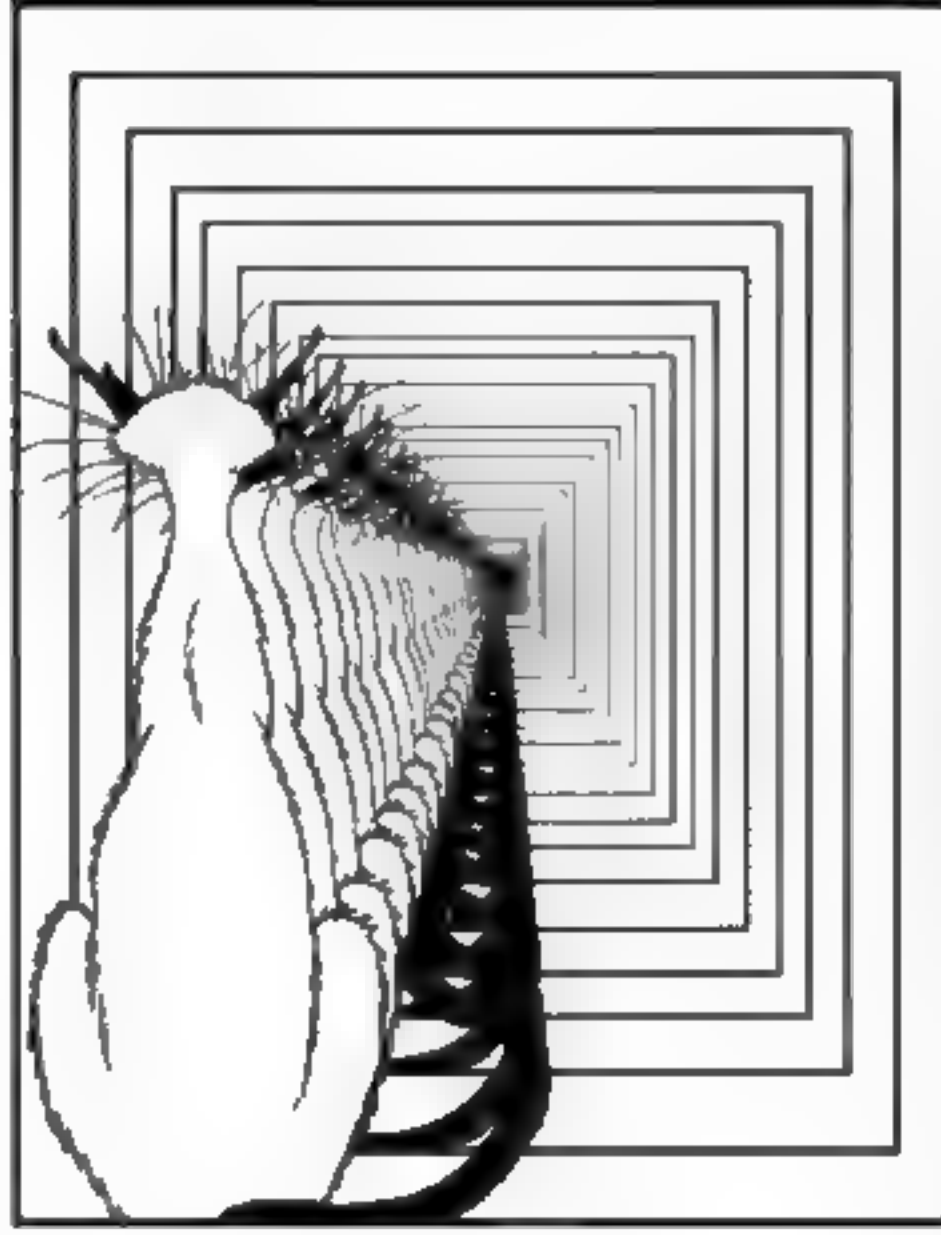
Brooke



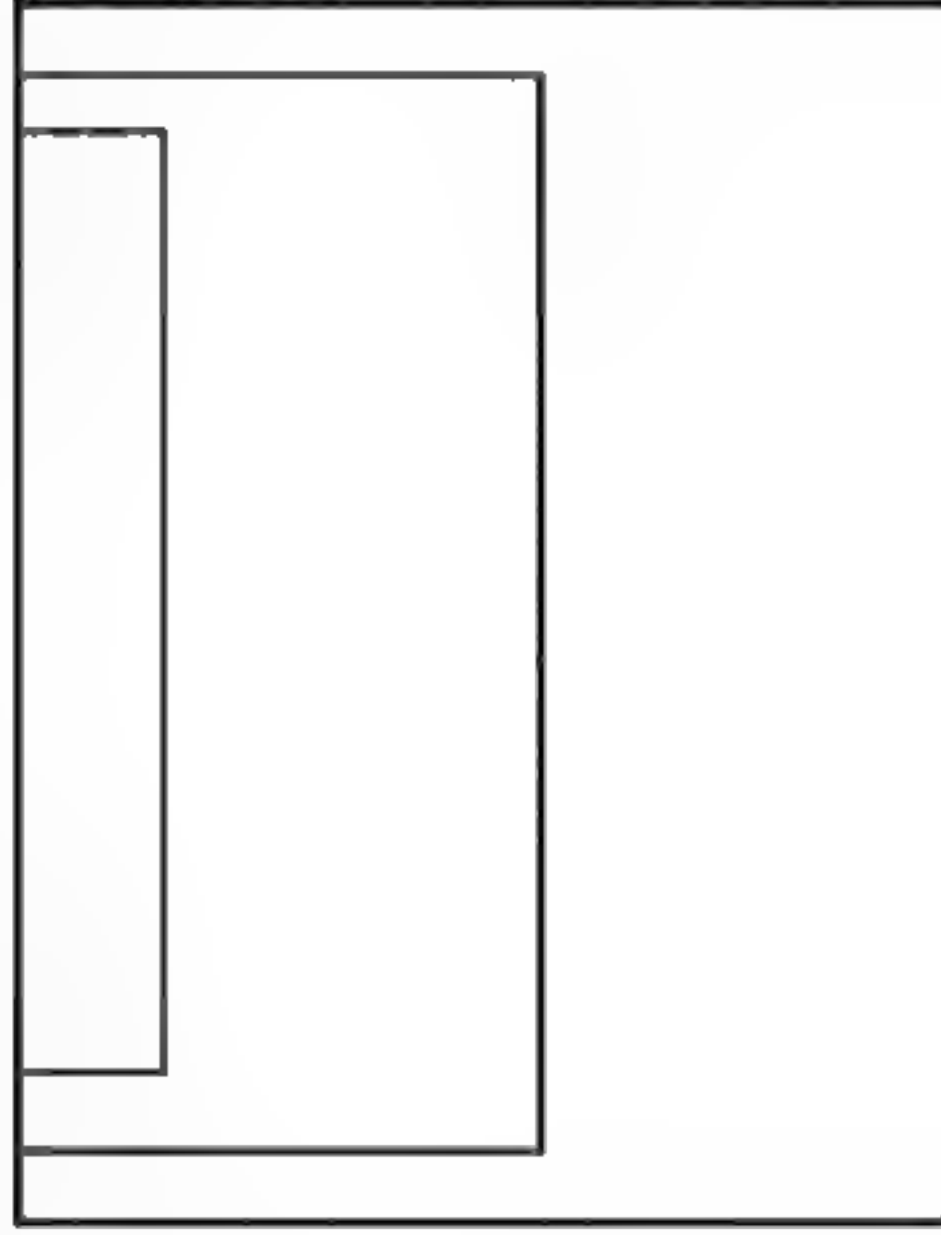
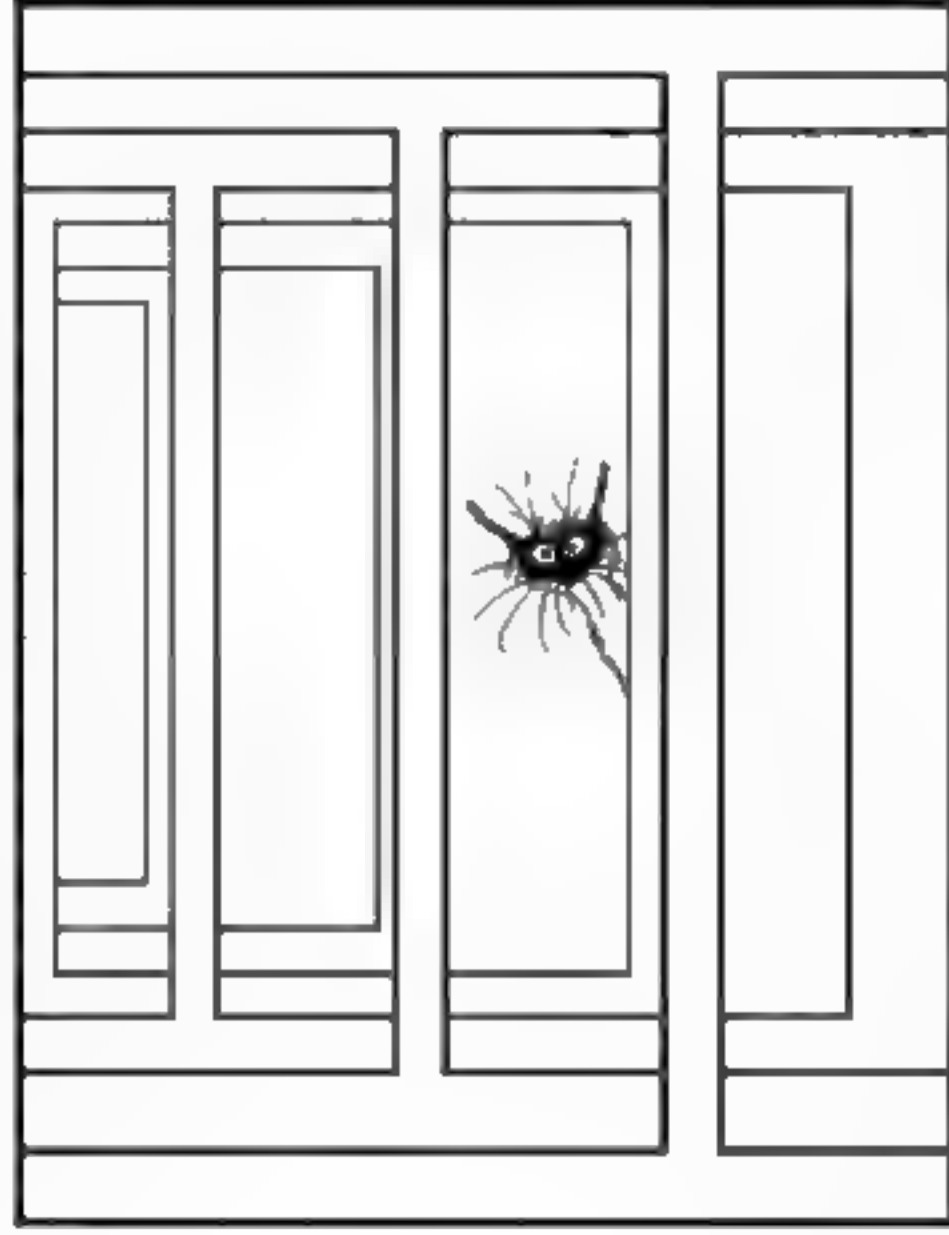
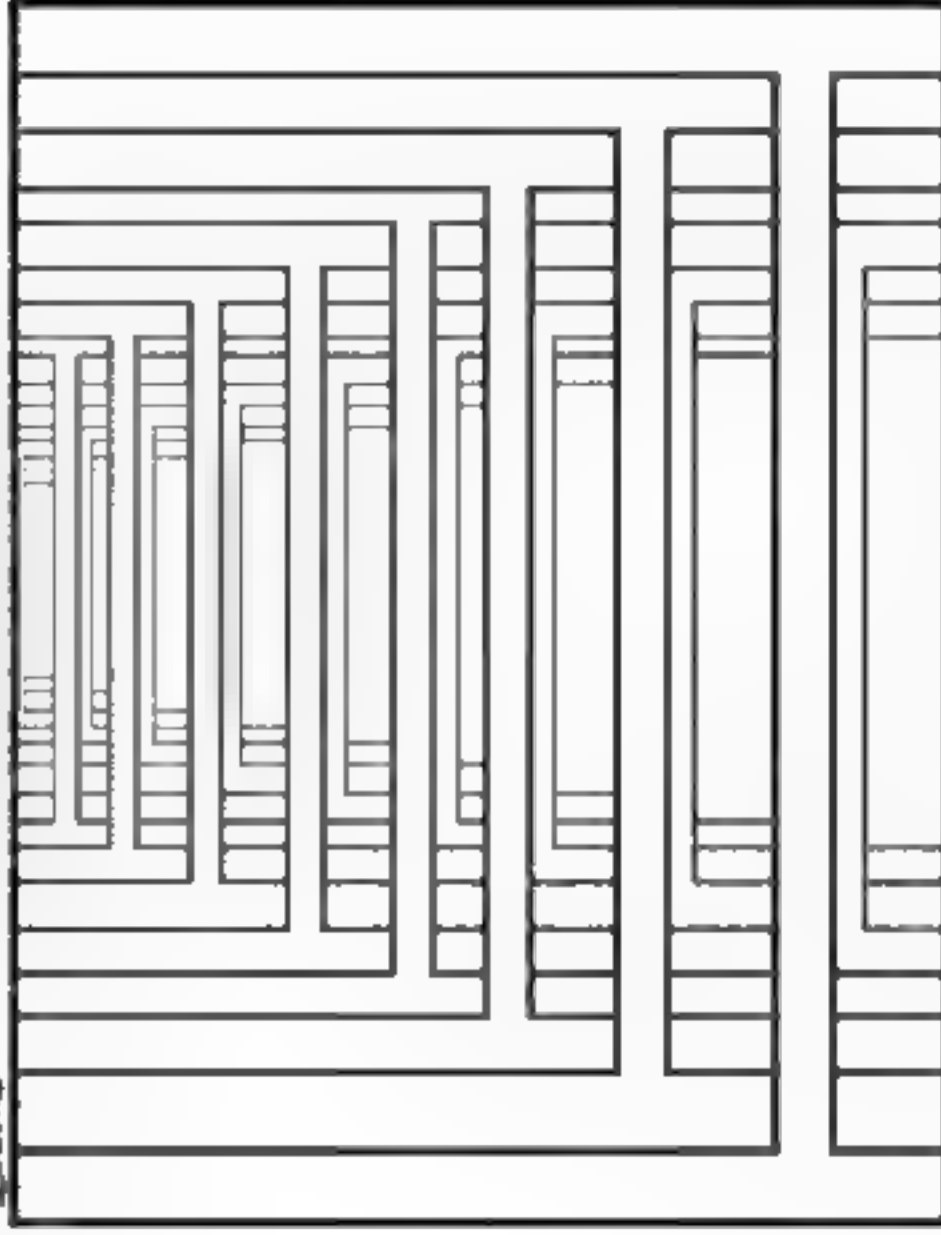
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Brooks



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FEELING LISTLESS, MOODY?
A KISS MAY BE THE MEDICA-
TION FOR YOU. APPLIED TO
THE LIPS, A KISS CAUSES
MOST SYMPTOMS TO VANISH
WITHIN SECONDS, AND TO BE
GONE FOR HOURS.



SIDE EFFECTS MAY INCLUDE
SHORTNESS OF BREATH,
RISE IN BLOOD
PRESSURE,
POPPING EYES,
MUSCLE
SPASMS AND
SWEAT...
...IN EXTREME
CASES VERTIGO
AND
FAINTING
HAVE
BEEN
OBSERVED.



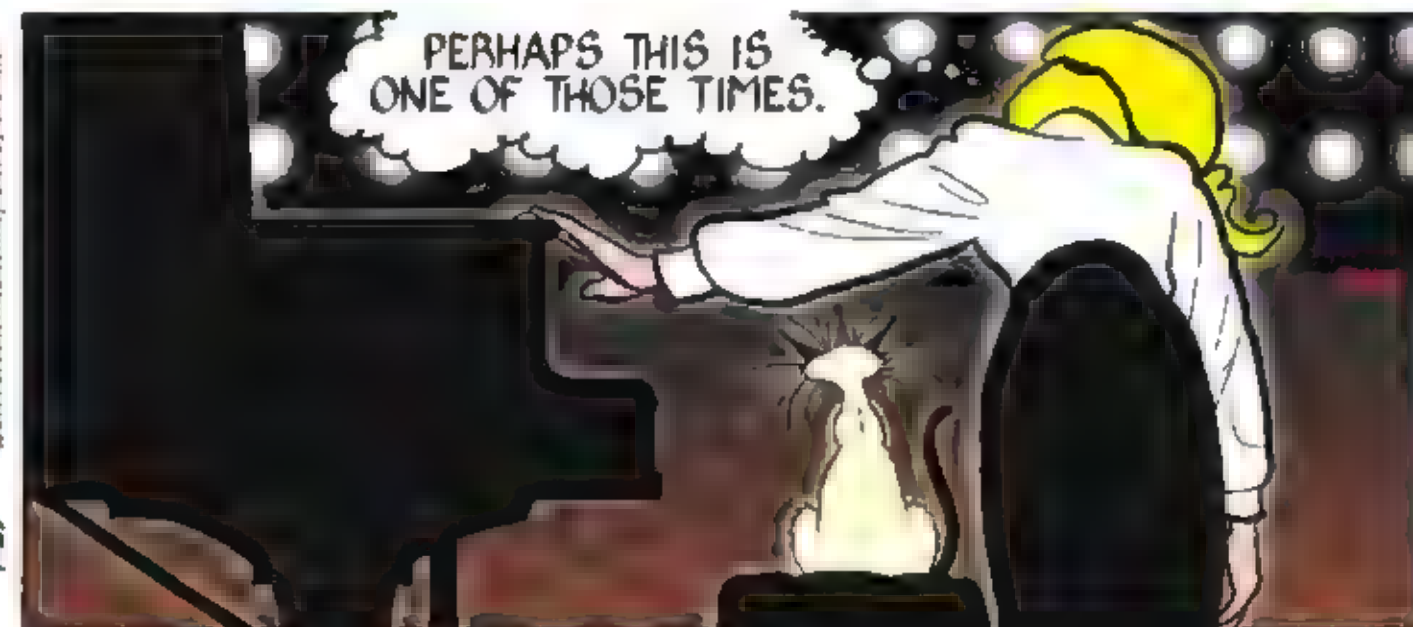
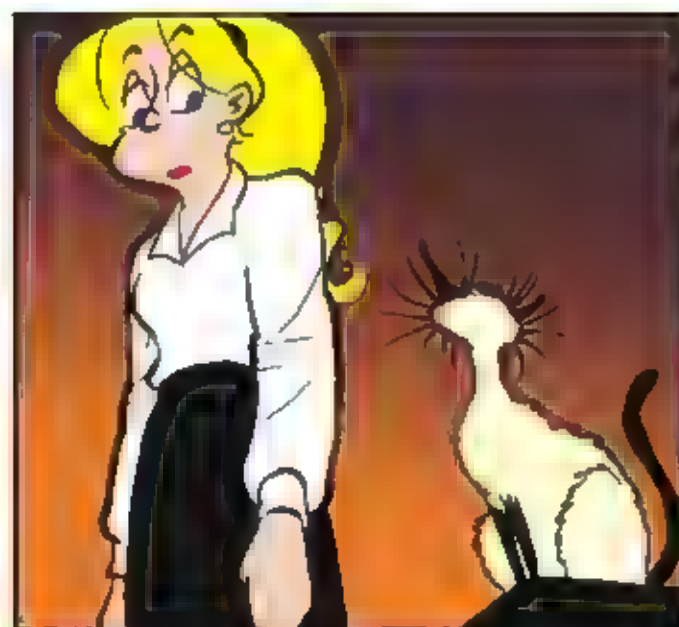
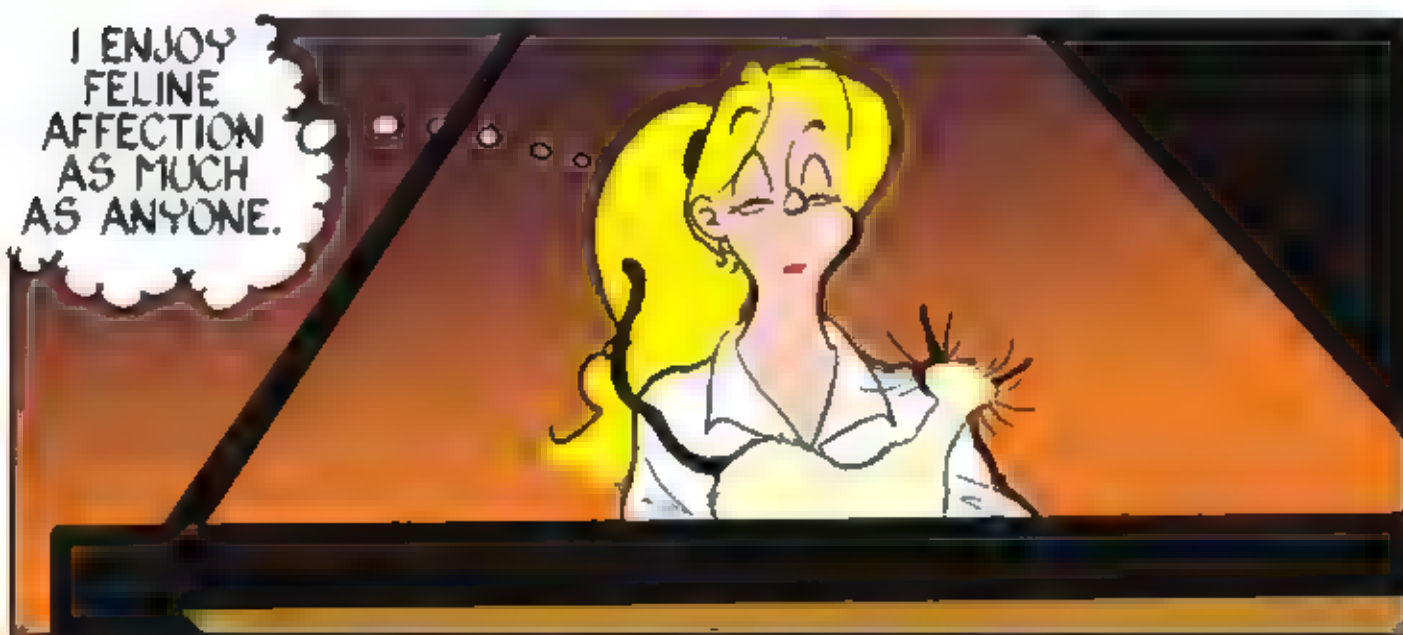
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1-24

Brooke

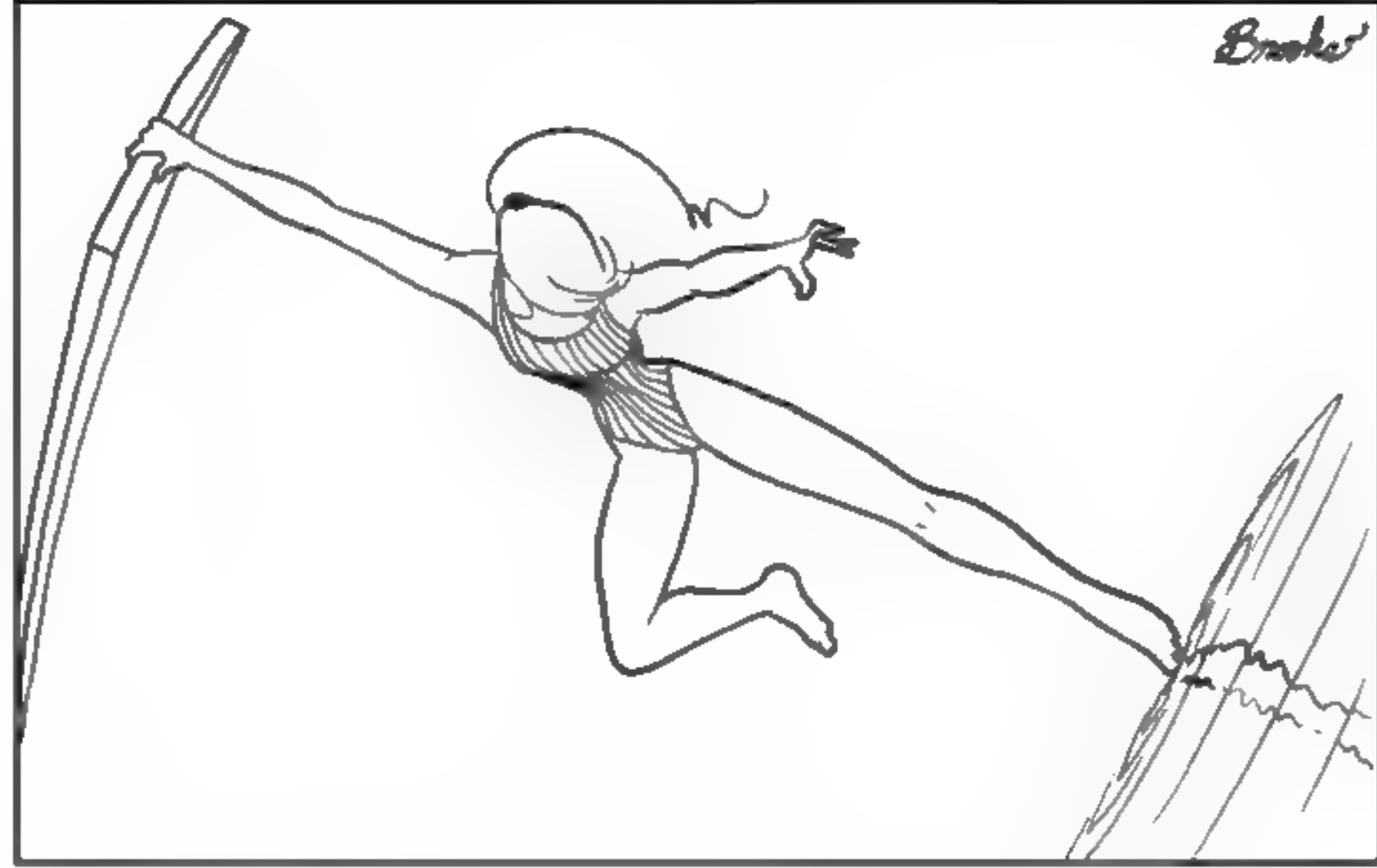
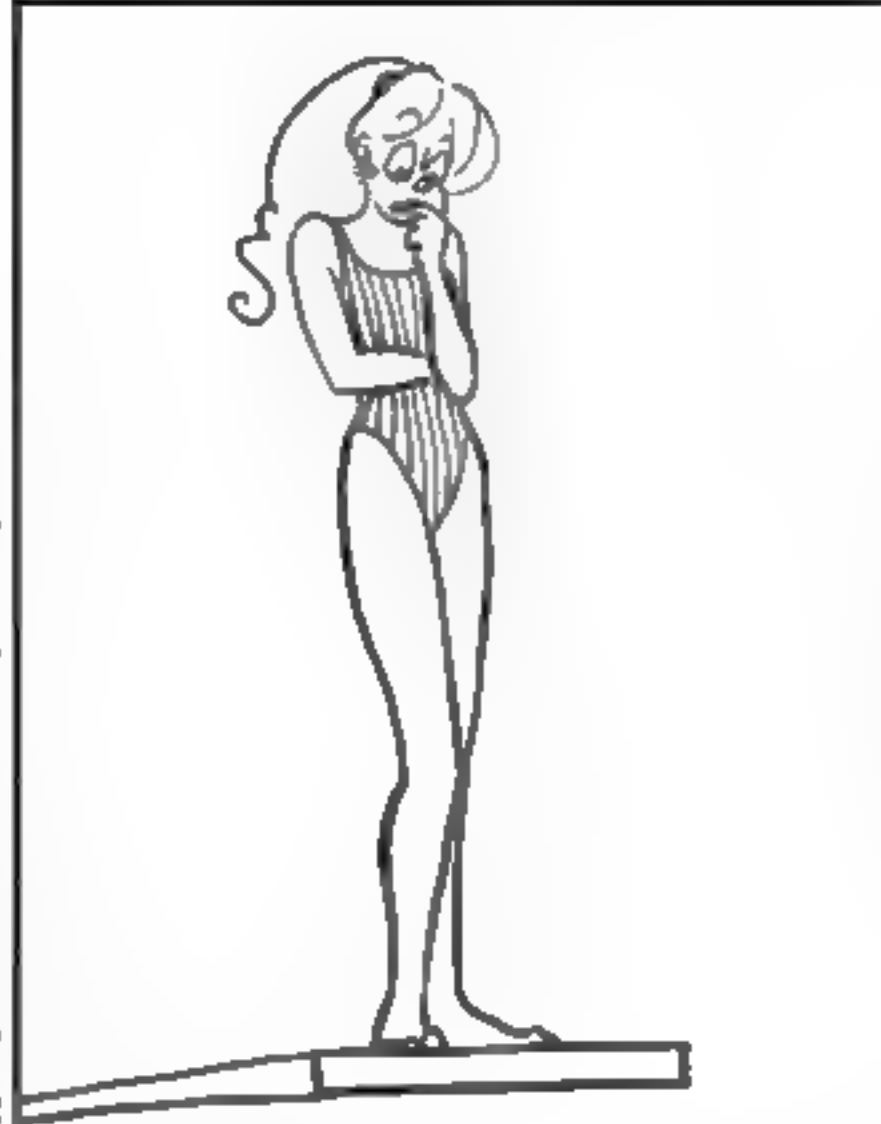


9 CHICKWEED LANE





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SO YOU
HAD A
GOOD
DREAM
LAST
NIGHT.

NOT JUST GOOD.
"GOOD" DOESN'T
EVEN BEGIN TO
DESCRIBE IT.



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IT WAS FANTASTIC,
INCREDIBLE...THE ABSOLUTELY
BEST DREAM I'VE EVER
EXPERIENCED...THAT ANYONE
HAS EVER EXPERIENCED!

WHAT
WAS IT
ABOUT?



Brooke

UM...
NOTHING.

QUIT MAKING VEILED HINTS
ABOUT YOUR DREAM
LAST NIGHT...
...JUST SAY
WHAT IT WAS
ABOUT.



OKAY...I HAD THE MOST
INCREDIBLE, SENSUAL, WILD,
TREMBLING, ELECTRIC,
THRILLING, BREATHTAKING,
GASPINGLY EYE-POPPING,
UNFETTERED, HEART-RACING,
FLESH-TINGLING, PASSION-
ATELY ABANDONED,
RAPTUROUS...



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OKAY! STOP!
I DON'T WANT
TO KNOW!



WHY DID
MOTHER
JUST SLAM
HER BEDROOM
DOOR?

I SWAMPED HER
ADJECTIVE
THRESHOLD.





WHAT'S
WRONG,
HONEY?
YOU
LOOK
GLUM.

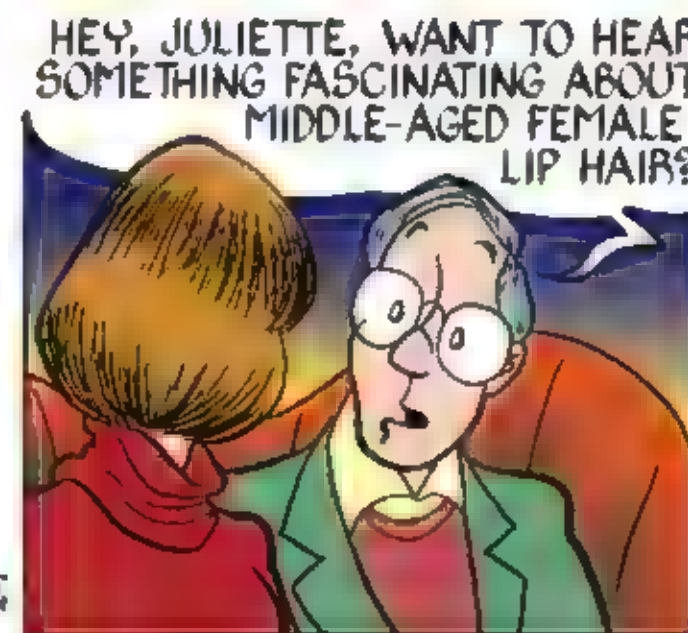
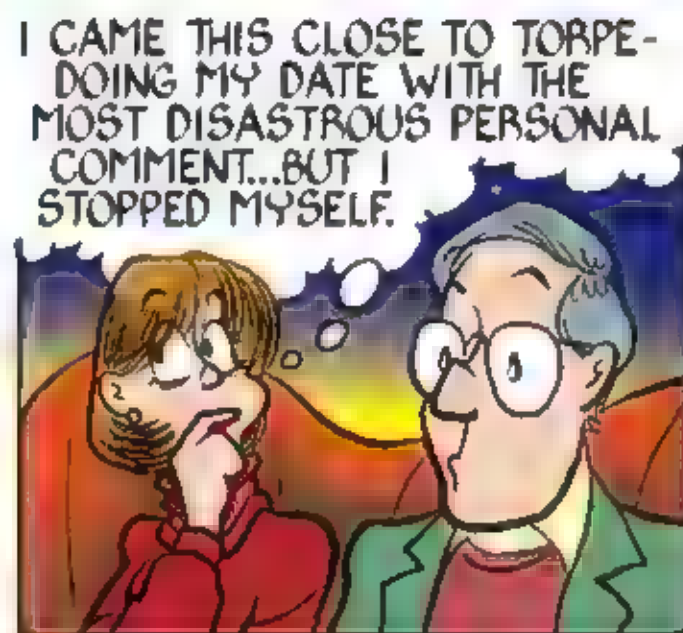
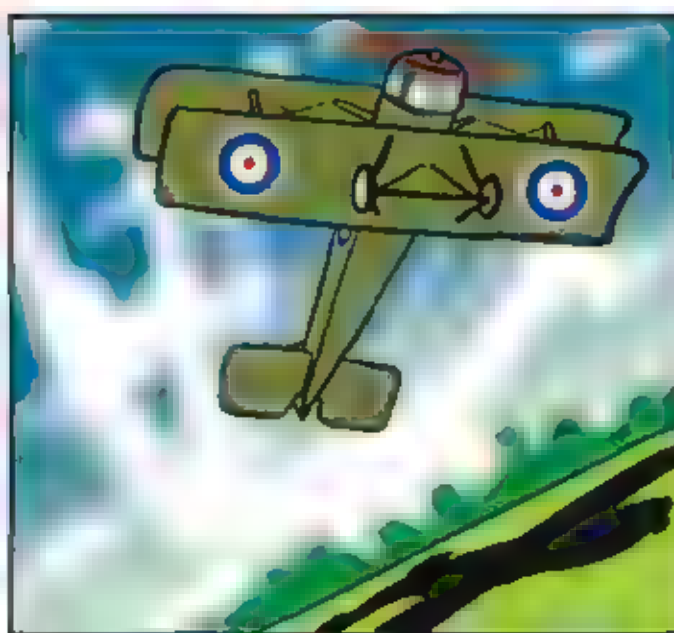
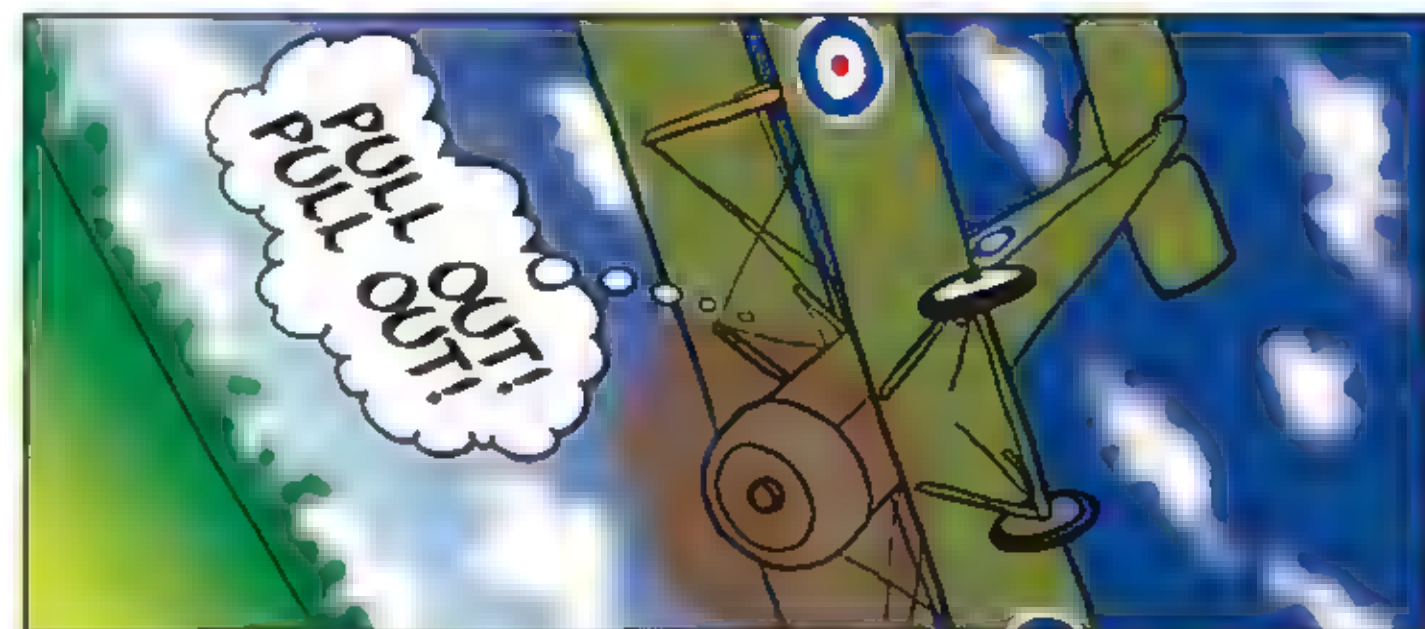
I JUST
THINK
I HAVE
RATHER
VAPID
CORE
BELIEFS.

DON'T WORRY...THOSE WILL
DEVELOP AND ACCRUE
WITH AGE AND EXPERIENCE.

Brooke

QUICK, MOTHER,
WHAT'S A
CORE
BELIEF?

BEATS
ME.







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THE STUDENT BODY HAS DEPUTIZED ME TO SUBMIT,
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THAT YOUR BLEEPING RULES
ARE A LOAD OF BLEEPING BLEEP, AND THAT IT'S
ABOUT TIME WE STOPPED ENDURING
SUCH BLEEPING ANTI-AMERICAN
BLEEP.



SISTER ARAMUS,
A MOMENT OF
YOUR TIME,
PLEASE.



Broder

BLEEP



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AS IT BECOMES MORE AND MORE OBVIOUS THAT OUR MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENT IS IN DISARRAY, THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE LIES IN THE HANDS OF PRE-MED STUDENTS JUST LIKE YOURSELVES.



TO CONTRIBUTE MY PART, I SHALL GIVE EXAMS THAT ONLY THE VERY BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF YOU, ONLY THE CREAM OF YOUR CROP, WILL STAND EVEN A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN GEHENNA OF PASSING.



WOW...I ACTUALLY COULD HEAR A PIN DROP.



ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO EXTEND
THE HAND OF AMITY TO ALL
POLITICIANS EVERYWHERE...
THE MONARCHS, THE DES-
POTS, THE PRESIDENTS AND
PRIME MINISTERS, THE WEE
ONES AND THE BIG ONES...



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...AND GATHER THEM ALL
TOGETHER ON A PRIVATE
LITTLE ISLAND WAY
AWAY FROM THE REST OF
HUMANITY, WHERE THEY
COULD MEET FACE TO FACE,
WITHOUT THEIR ARMIES
OR WEAPONS, ONLY
THEMSELVES
IN QUIET
RETREAT.



THEN I'D LEAVE THE LITTLE
MAGGOTS TO FIGHT IT OUT
AMONG THEMSELVES WITH
THEIR OWN SOFT, SULLIED
HANDS...AND THE REST
OF US COULD GET
SOME PEACE.



WHEN I'M
SLEEP-DEPRIVED
FROM READING
THE HEADLINES,
I GET ALL
SPIRITUAL.



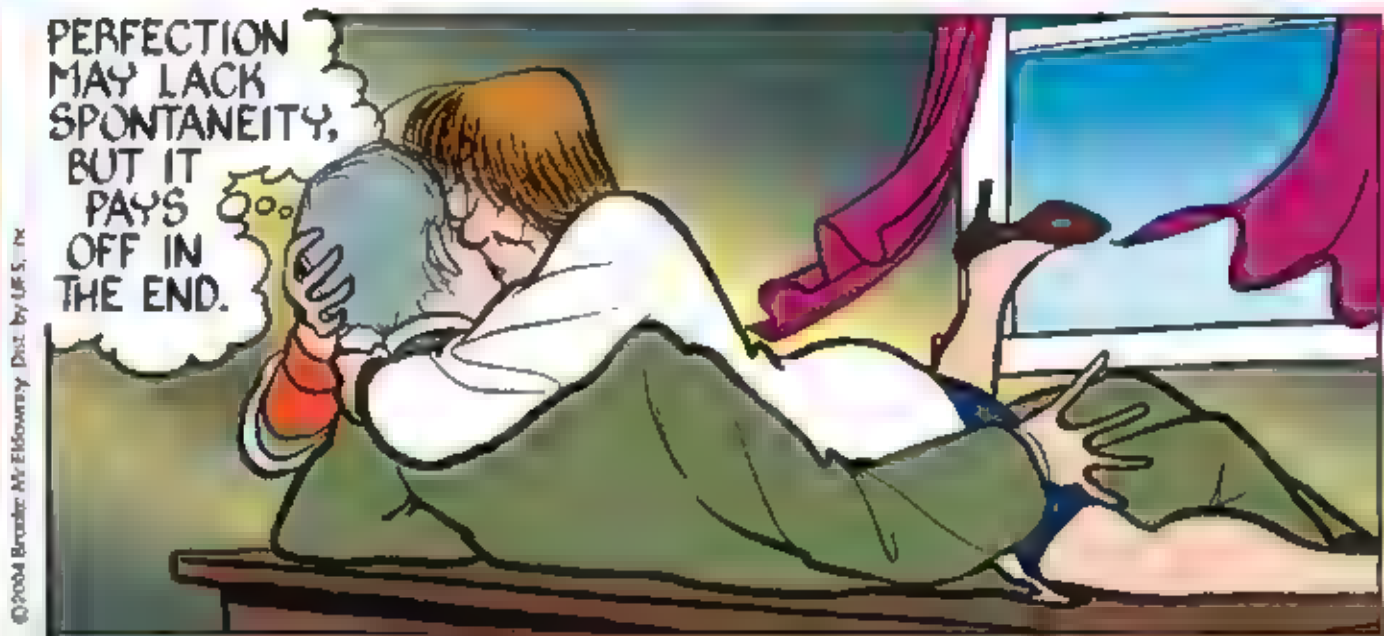
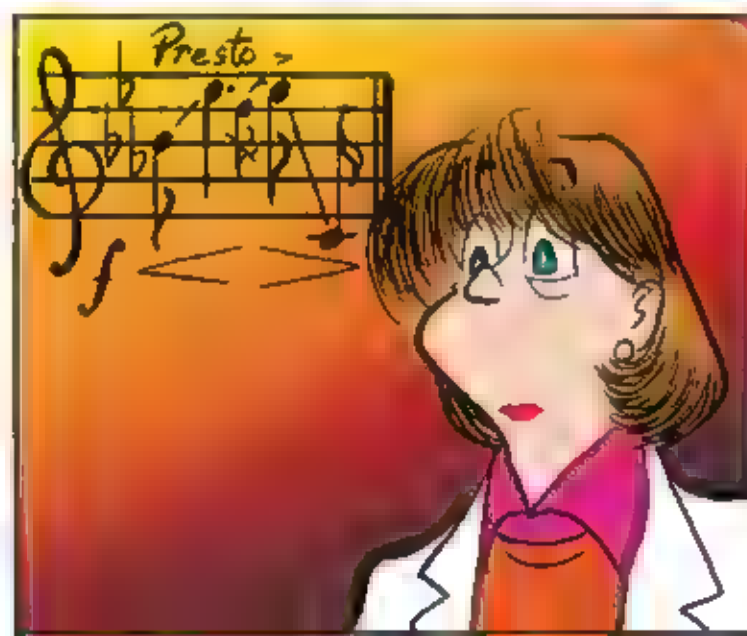
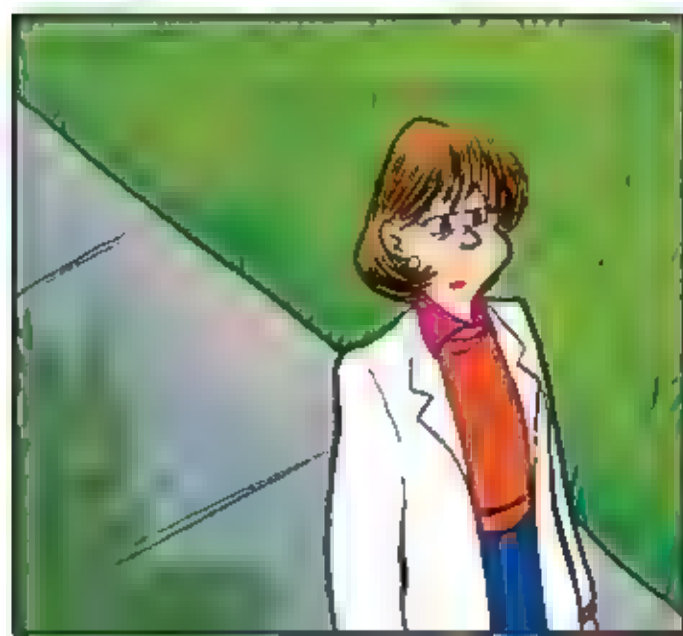
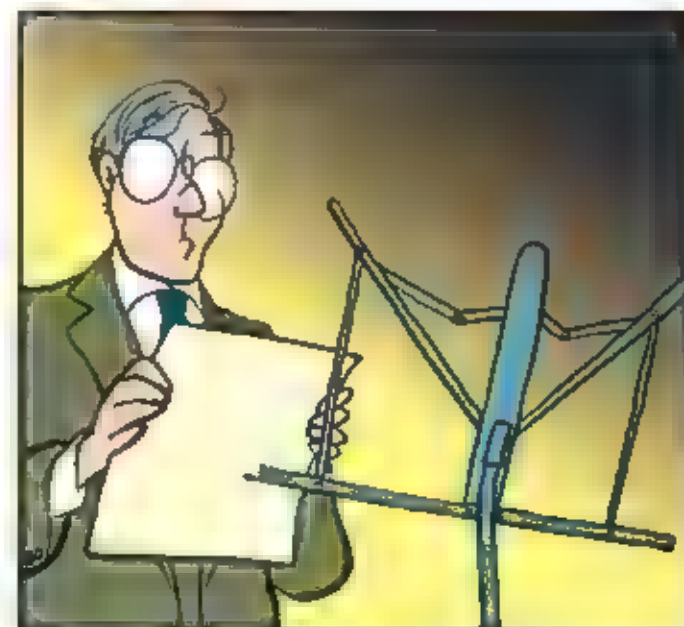
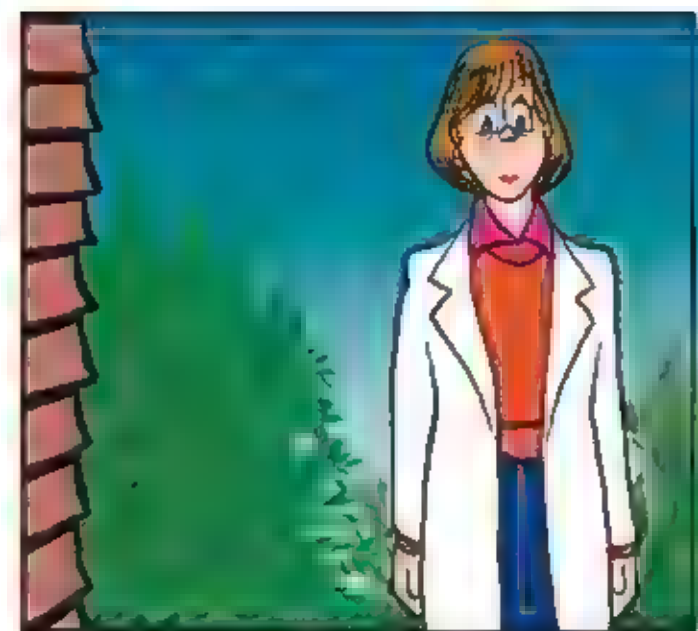
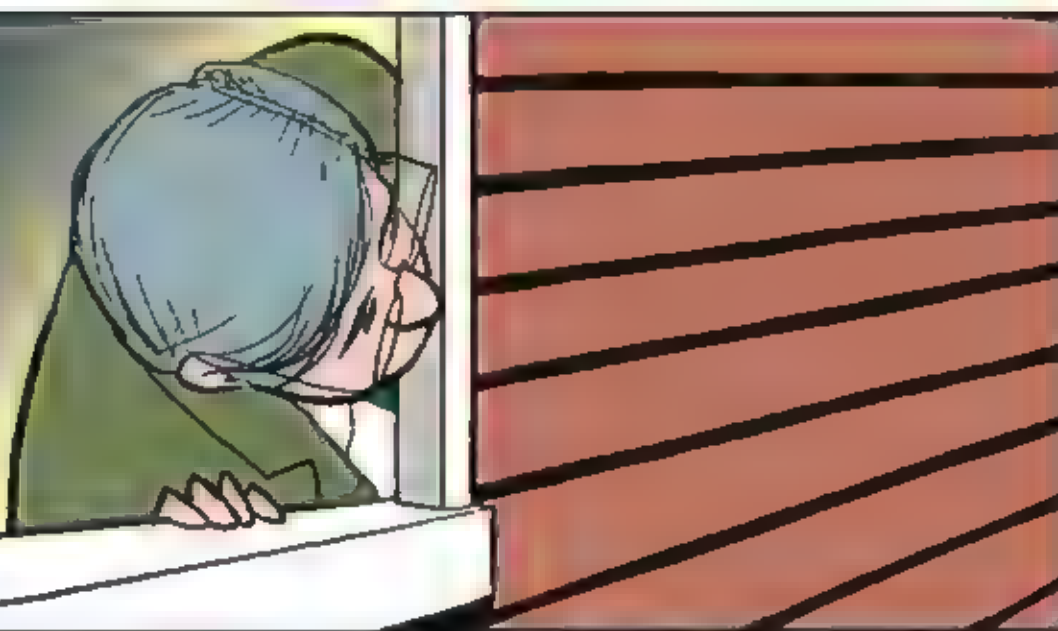
MOM,
IT'S DAD...
AND HE'S
SOUNDING
CONCILIA-
TORY.

QUICK, GET
THAT MAGAZINE
HE LEFT BEHIND
WHEN WE SPLIT
UP, AND MY
LAST LAWYER
BILL.



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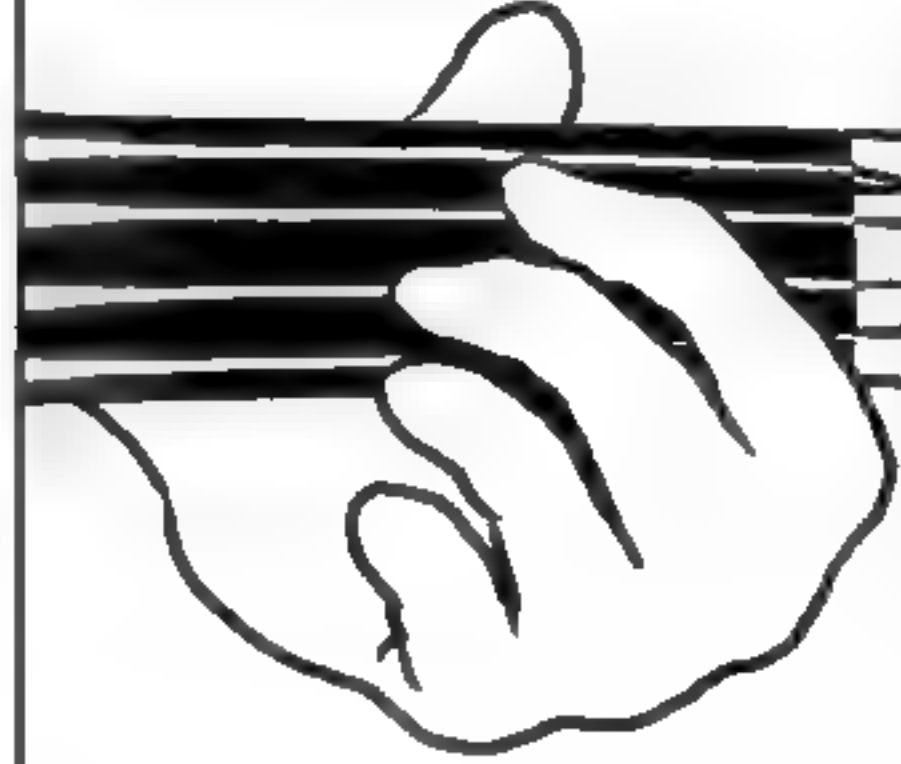




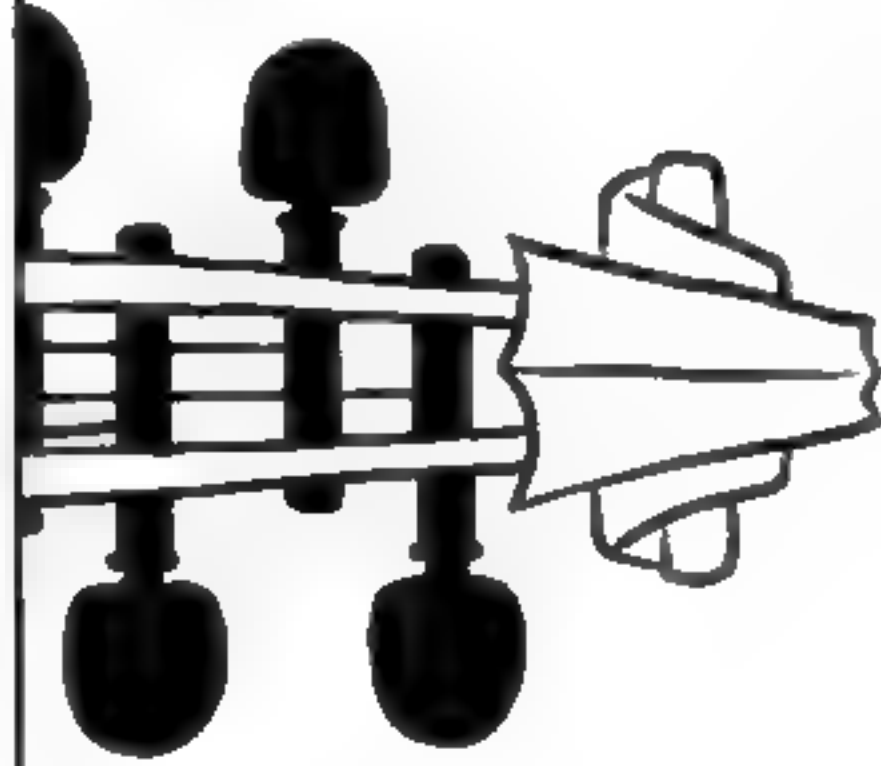
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2-9



Brooke

I'D BETTER GET OFF
TO MY MEETING WITH THE
CHANCELLOR...SEE YOU
LATER.



2-19

Brooke



ORDINARILY, DR. GREENE,
FACULTY MEMBERS SHOW
UP AT THESE MEETINGS WITH
ALL THEIR SHIRT
BUTTONS, AND
NO EXPOSED
CHEST HAIR.

I HAD AN
UNFORESEEN
PECK-ON-
THE-CHEEK
MELTDOWN.



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ELLIOTT'S TAKING ME OUT
TO A PARTY,
DO YOU
MIND IF I
TRY ON
SOME-
THING
OF
YOURS?

NOT AT ALL. I'M GOING TO
A DANCE. MAY I TRY ON
SOMETHING OF
YOURS?

Brooke





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HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 178



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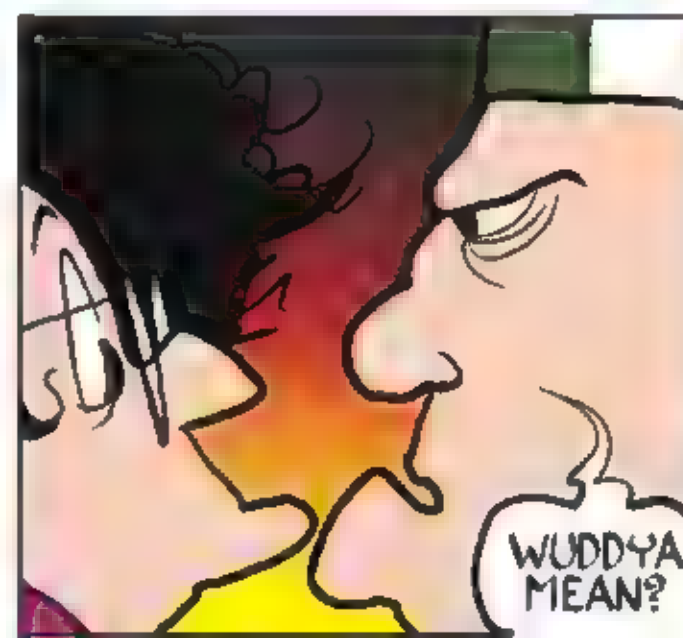
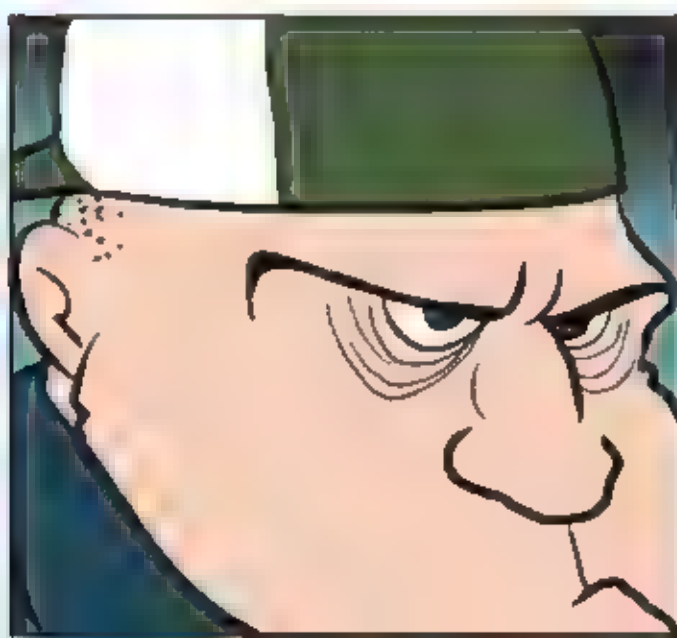
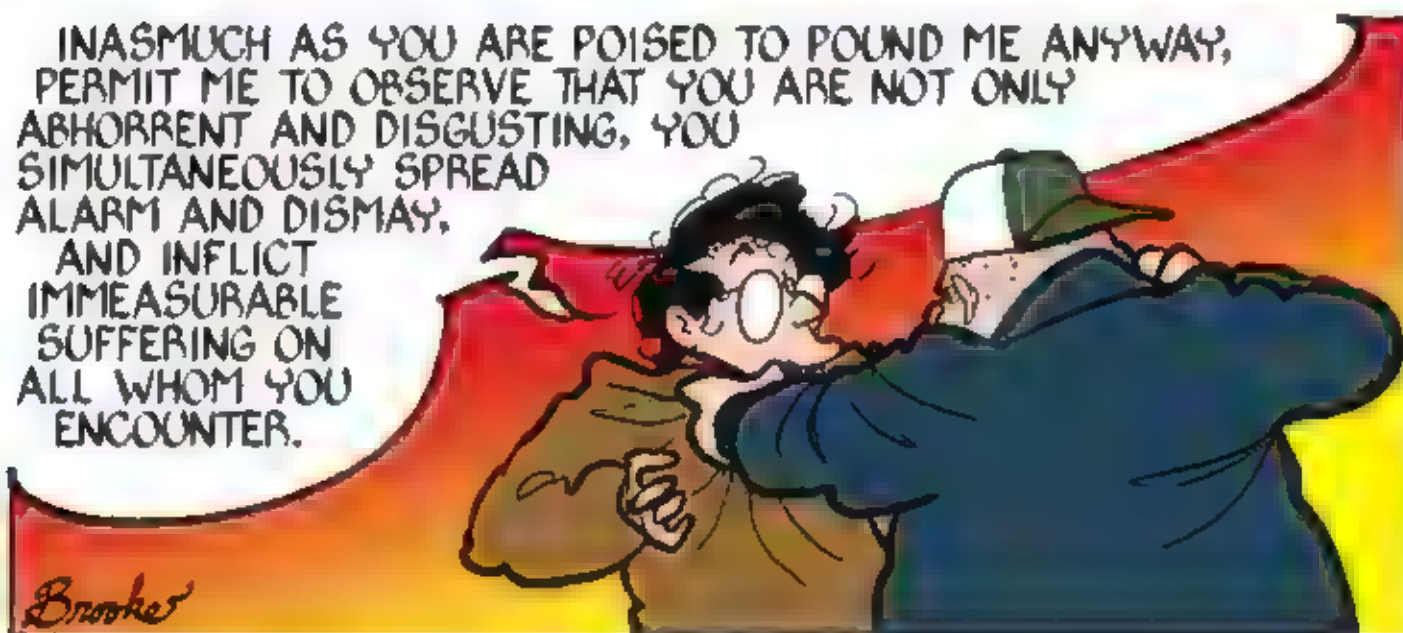
Brooke

PRODUCT
ENHANCEMENT

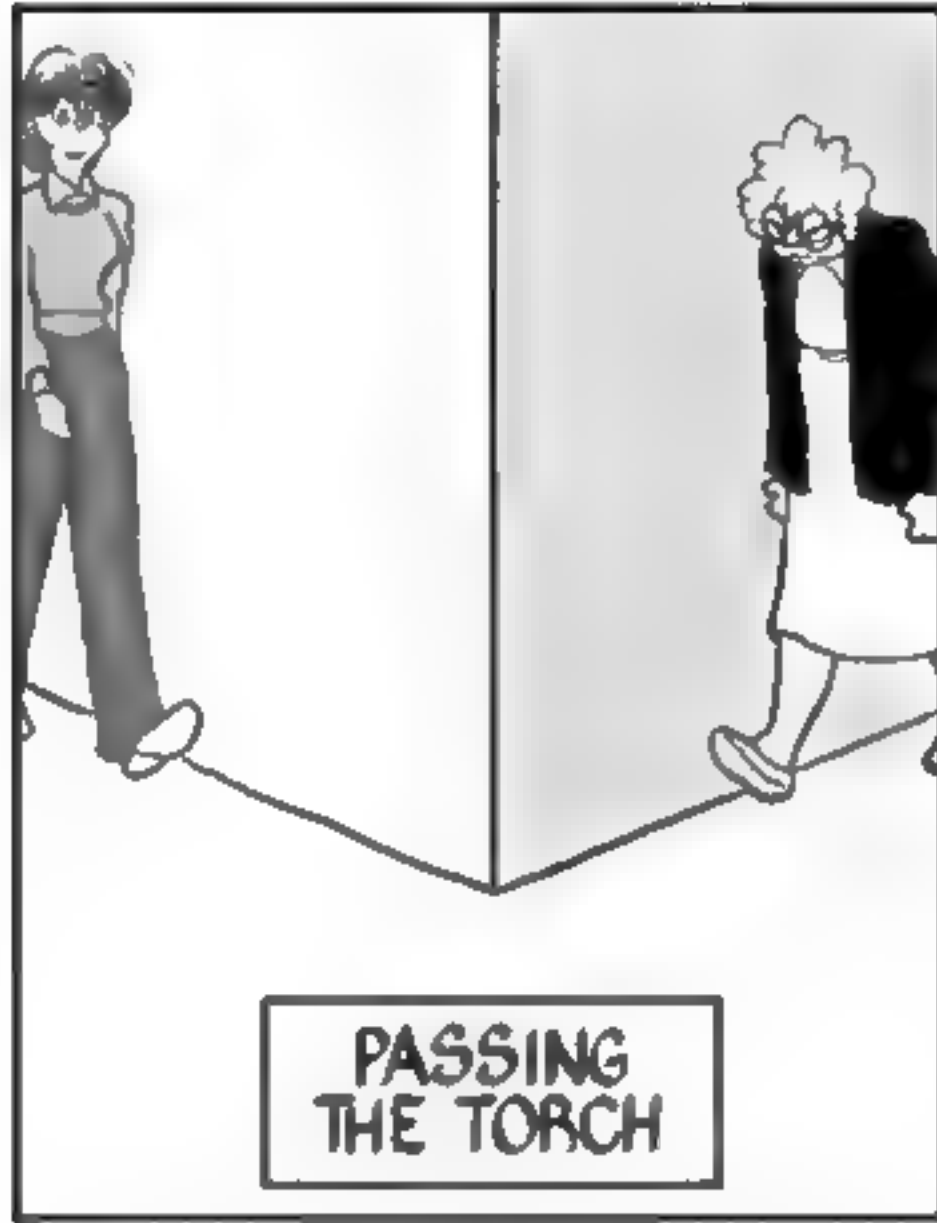


2-14





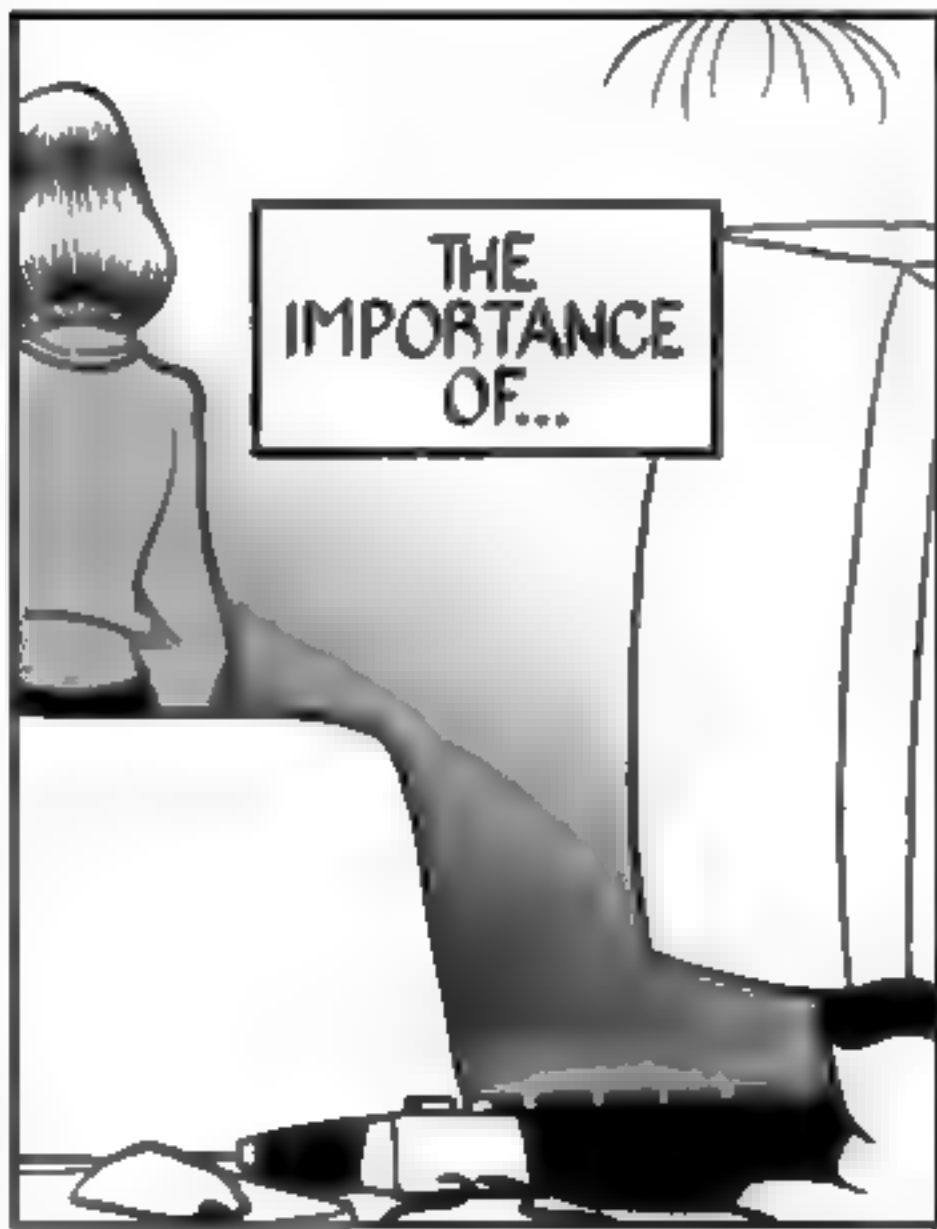




HALLMARKS OF
FELINITY No. 179



THE
IMPORTANCE
OF...



Brooke



...THE "SAVE" KEYSTROKE.



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YOU WANT
EDITORIAL
SUPERVISION
OF MY
GROCERY
LIST?

I'M
WATCHING
MY CARBS.

CARBS?

THAT'S
SHORT FOR
CARBOHYDRATES.

I THOUGHT WE WERE
GOING SHOPPING.

YOUR MOM
IS TWEAKING
OUR MENU.

Brooke

EVIDENTLY
SHE'S ON
A LOW-
SYLLABLE
DIET.

SORRY
FOR THE
DELAY.

NO PROBLEM.
WHILE I WAITED,
I JUST PETTED
YOUR CAT.



WELL, NOW THAT I'M HERE,
HOW ABOUT A LITTLE
SMOOCH ON
THE LIPS?

IF YOU
INSIST...



Brooke



I DIDN'T KNOW
UNCLE ROGER
AND HIS
BROOD ARE
COMING OVER.
THERE'S A DAY
SHOT.

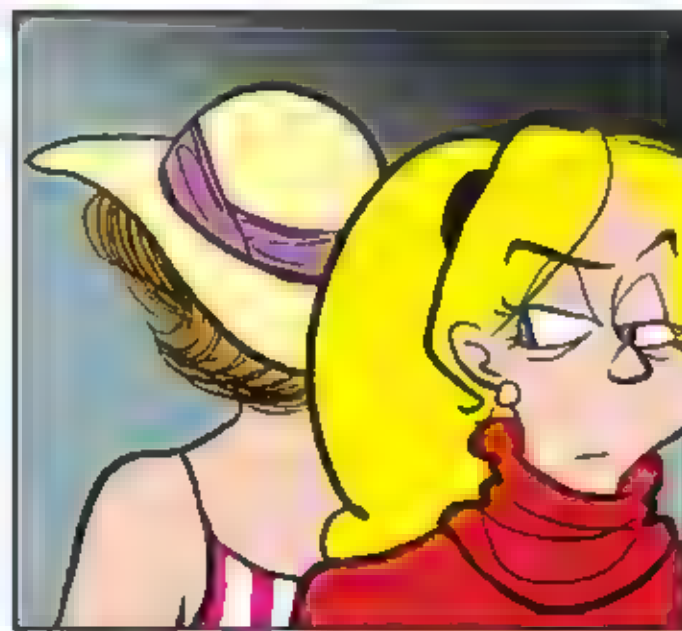
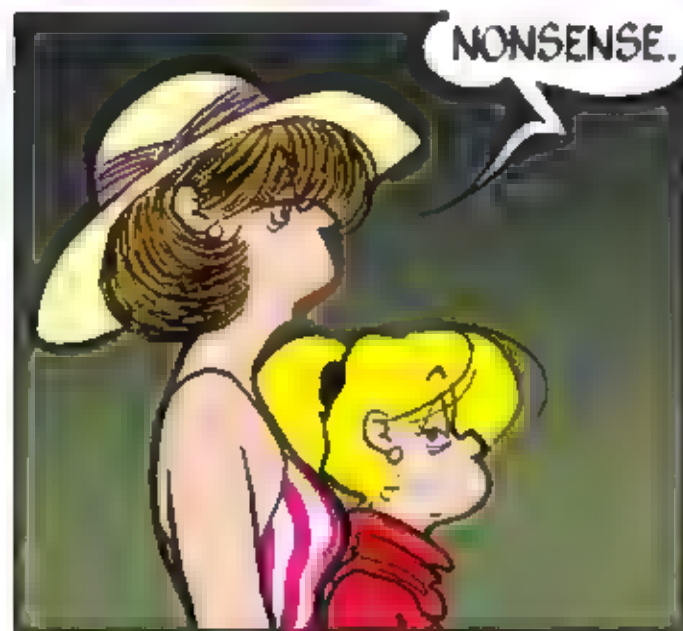
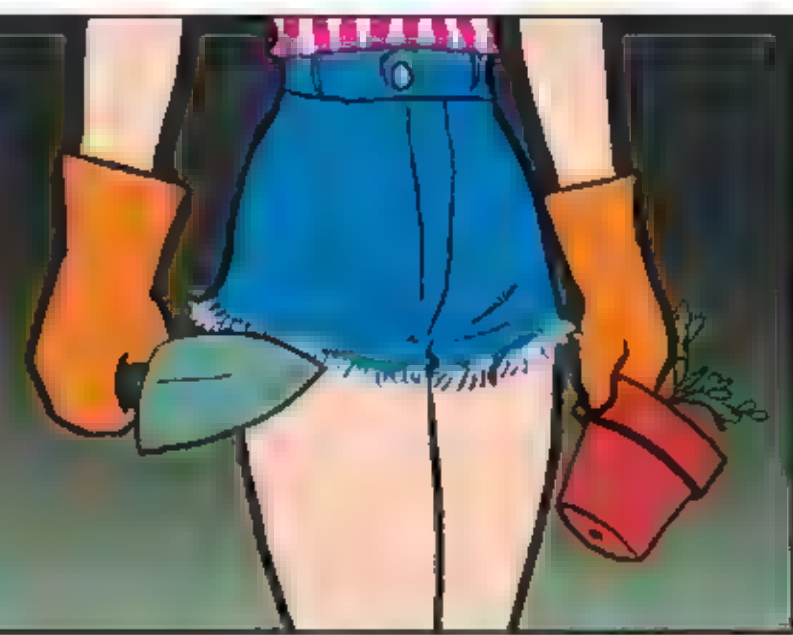
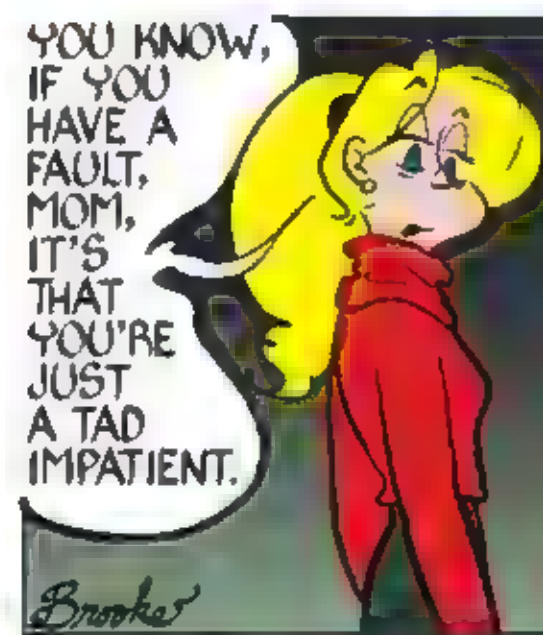
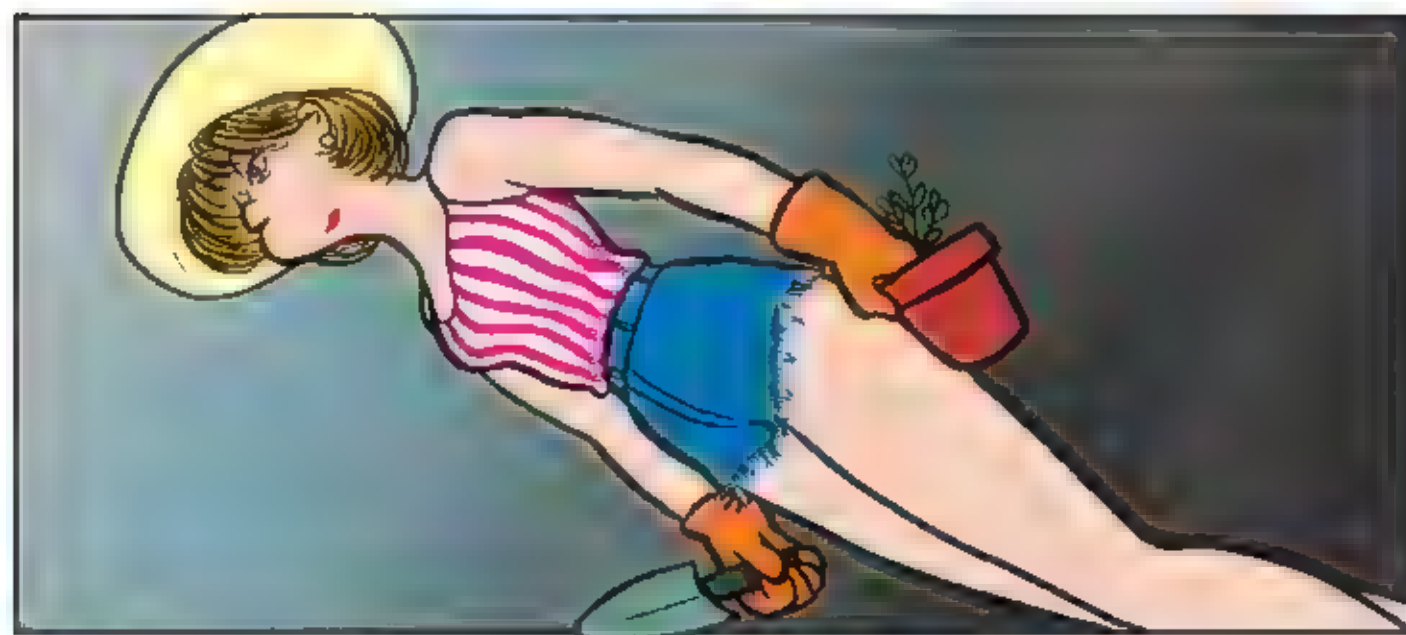
WELL,
'THEY'
ARE
FAMILY.

WHY IS THAT SUPPOSED
TO MAKE ME FEEL ANY
DIFFERENT? WHAT DOES
"THEY ARE FAMILY"
MEAN?

THERE'S AN APOSTROPHE
BEFORE THE WORDS "THEY
ARE FAMILY." IT STANDS
FOR, "YES, YOUR AUNT AND
UNCLE ARE LOUD-MOUTHED
BUFFOONS AND YOUR
COUSINS ARE A GAGGLE OF
DROOLING DEVIANTS AND
UNAPPREHENDED FELONS
YOU WOULDN'T TURN
YOUR BACK ON IN
A DARK ALLEY,
BUT YOU'RE
NOT ALLOWED
TO EXERCISE
GOOD TASTE
BECAUSE...THEY
ARE FAMILY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE AN
APOSTROPHE COULD
ACCOMMODATE
SO MANY
WORDS.

THEY'RE
SURPRISINGLY
STRETCHY.



MARY JUST TOLD ME I'M
A DWEBB, A TWERP, A
NERD, A SCHNOOK,
A NITWIT AND
A DOOFUS.



Brooke



SO YOU'RE A MAN OF
MANY HATS.



I HATE THE WAY SHE
ITEMIZES, BUT I LOVE
THE WAY YOU SUM UP.





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AMOS
AND
I ARE
GOING
OUT.

OKAY,
HONEY.
BE
CAREFUL.

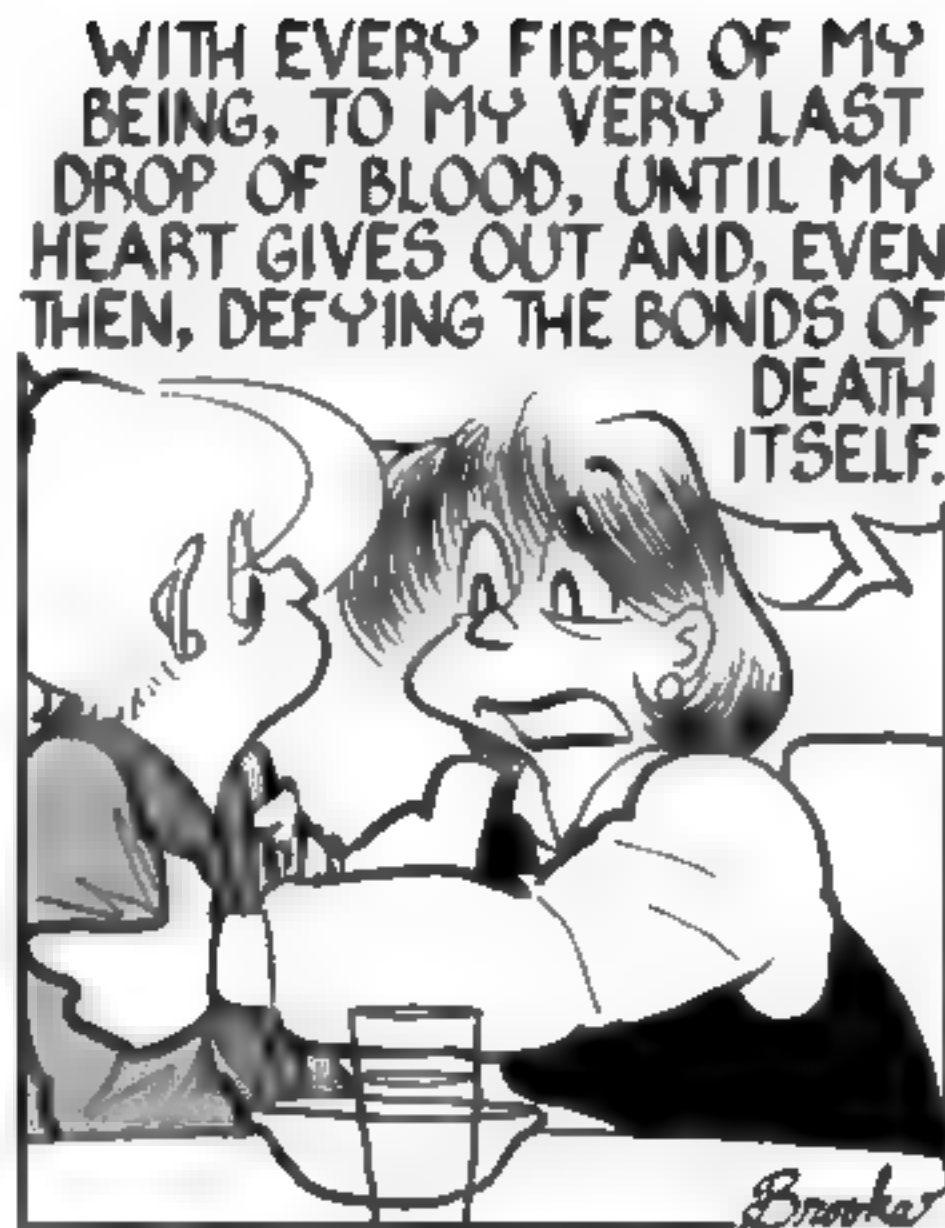
AND BY THAT I MEAN, DON'T
DO ANYTHING SCARRING,
DEAFENING, BLINDING,
CRIPPLING, SPEEDING,
CHILLING, BURNING...

...FATTENING, STARVING,
INTOXICATING, UNSANITARY,
REPRODUCTIVE, POISONOUS,
PERILOUS, EXCESSIVE,
DEMORALIZING...OR THAT
I WOULDN'T DO.

SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU NOT
TO RUN
WITH
SCISSORS.
MOM'S
LOOSENING UP.

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Brooke



WHAT DID YOUR MOM MEAN
WHEN SHE SAID IF I EVER
MAKE YOU SHED A TEAR
OF UNHAPPINESS, SHE'D
HUNT ME DOWN TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH,
MURDER ME IN COLD
BLOOD AND ADORN
THE FRONT DOOR
WITH MY GORY
HEAD ON A
PIKE?



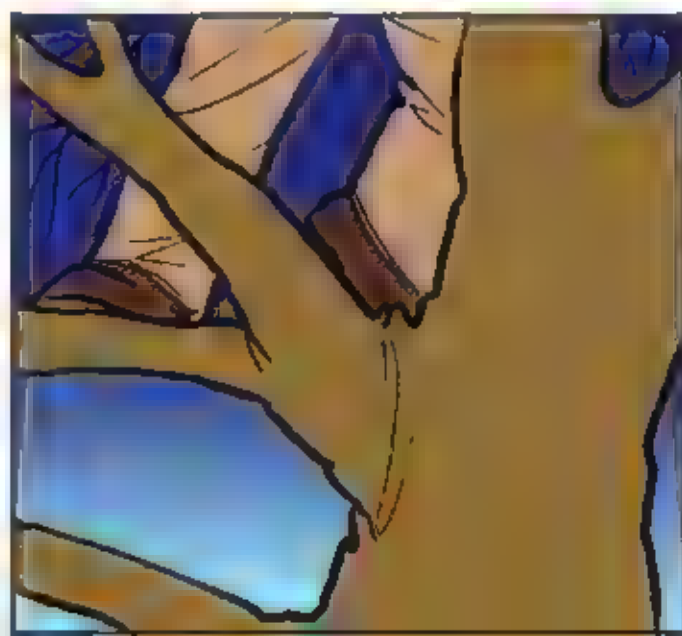
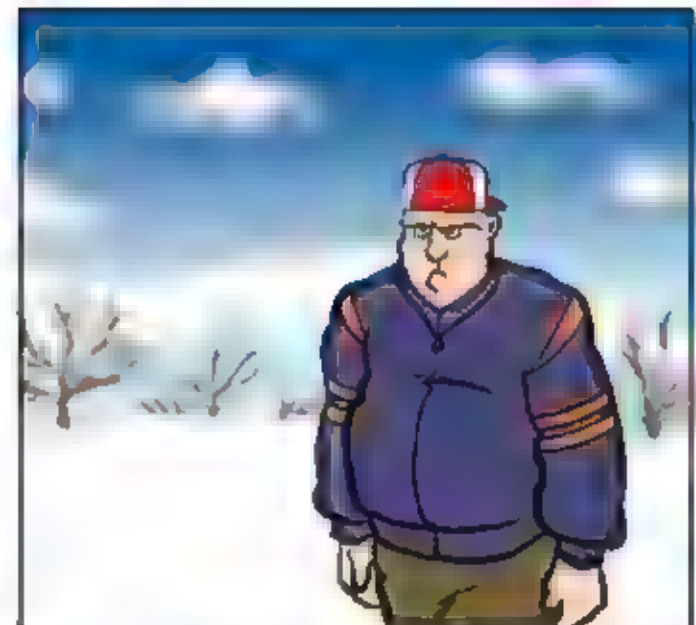
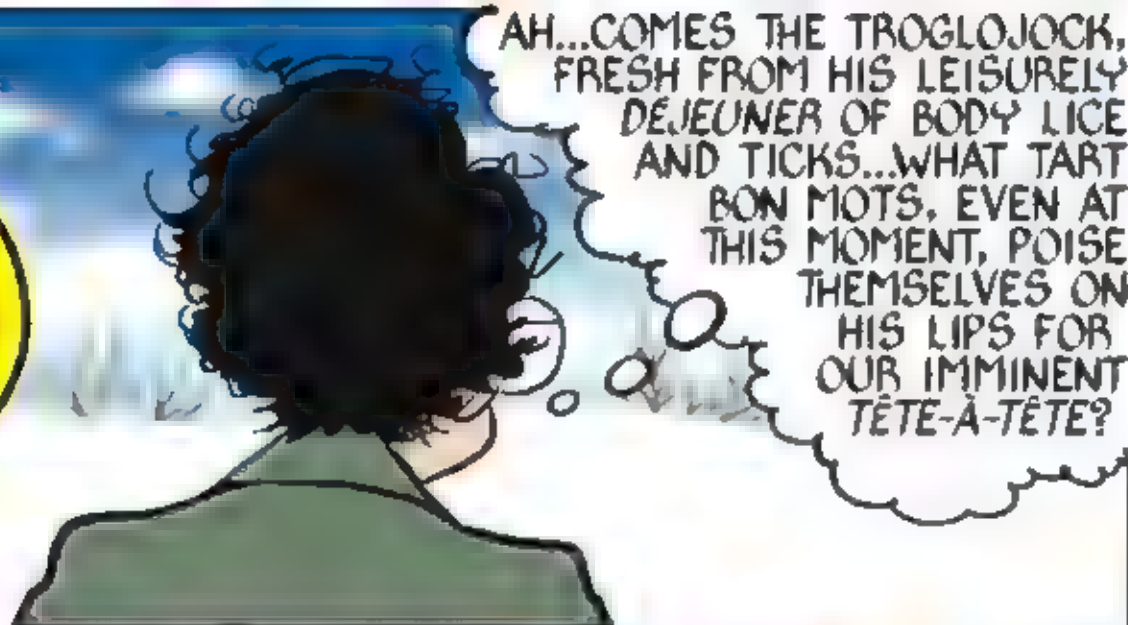
THAT'S
JUST HER
WAY OF
SAYING
HELLO
TO MY
NEW
DATES.





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PLEASE BRING TO OUR
WORLD A CAPACITY FOR
TOLERANCE...GIVE US PEACE
AND HOPE AND SERENITY.



GIVE
PLENTY TO
THOSE WHO DON'T
HAVE IT, AND GENEROSITY
TO THOSE WHO DO.

END HATRED...AND REWRITE
THE CREEDS THAT PREACH IT.
BRING BALANCE AND PURITY
BACK TO OUR PLANET, AND
TEACH US THAT WE PLUNDER
IT AT OUR IMMEASURABLE
PERIL.



AND PLEASE
GIVE ME X-RAY
VISION.



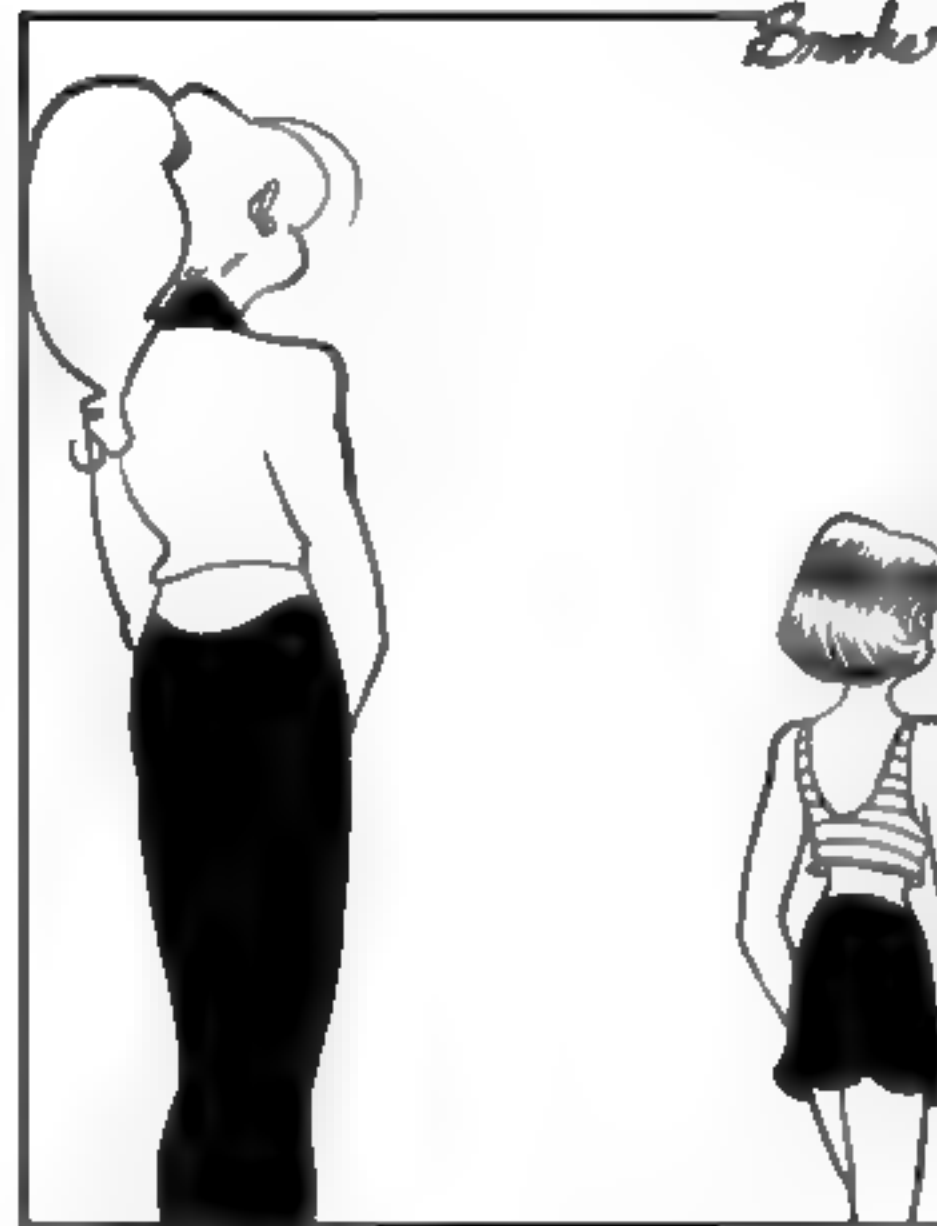
I JUST
THOUGHT
I'D THROW
THAT IN.

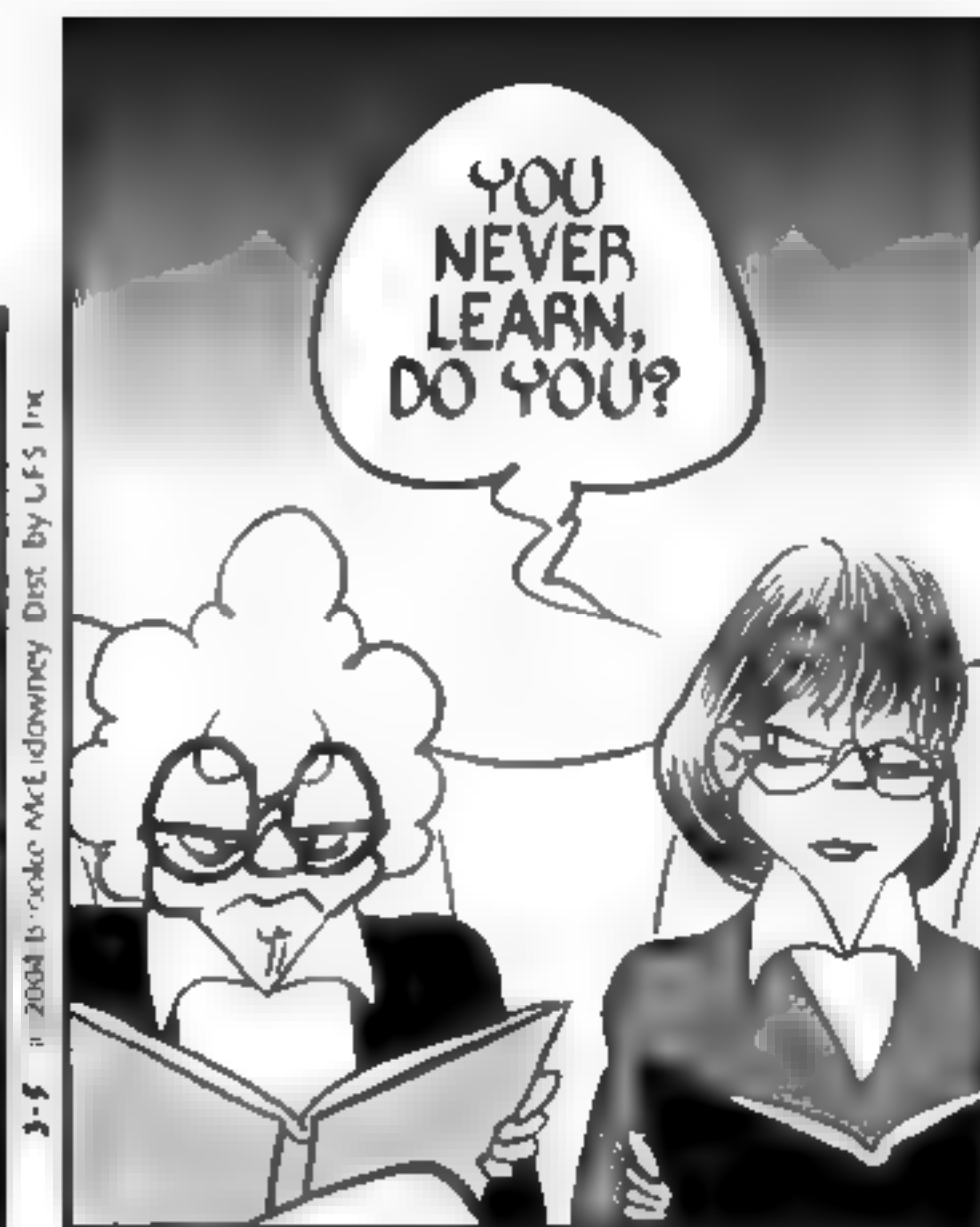
SOMEBODY SHOULD MAKE A
MOVIE ABOUT THE TWO OF
US...IT COULD BE THE SAGA
OF A FEMALE PROTAGONIST
STRUGGLING WITH LIFE'S
UPS AND DOWNS, ITS
VICTORIES
AND
DEFEATS,
WHILE
SHE
SHARES
HER LIFE
WITH HER
YOUNG,
STUNNINGLY
BEAUTIFUL...





Brooke





SORRY I WAS A LITTLE
DELAYED...MY GRANDMOTHER
WAS GIVING ME HER SET
SPEECH THAT ABOVE ALL



THINGS,
I SHOULD
ALWAYS
DEMAND
MY
DATE'S
RESPECT.

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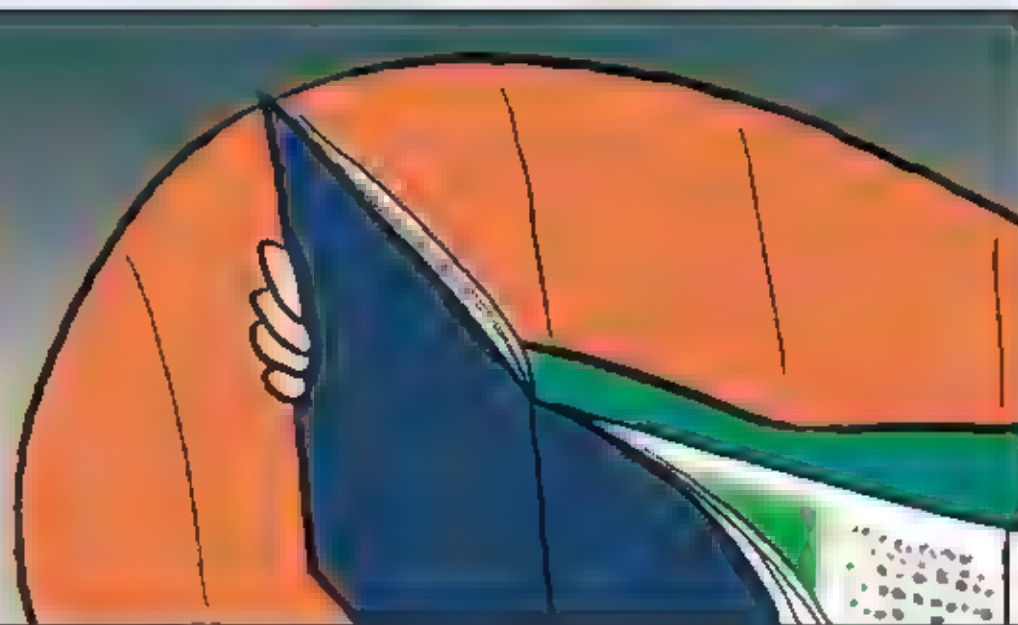
THERE'S AN OLD-FASHIONED
IDEA...WHO GOES OUT ON
A DATE DEMANDING
RESPECT?



I PREFER
TO THINK
OF IT AS
IMPLICIT.

I COULDN'T AGREE
WITH YOU MORE...
...VERY IMPLICIT.
INCREDIBLY
IMPLICIT.

Brooke



WHY DO YOU
KEEP THAT OLD
SKIN MAGAZINE
OF DAD'S?

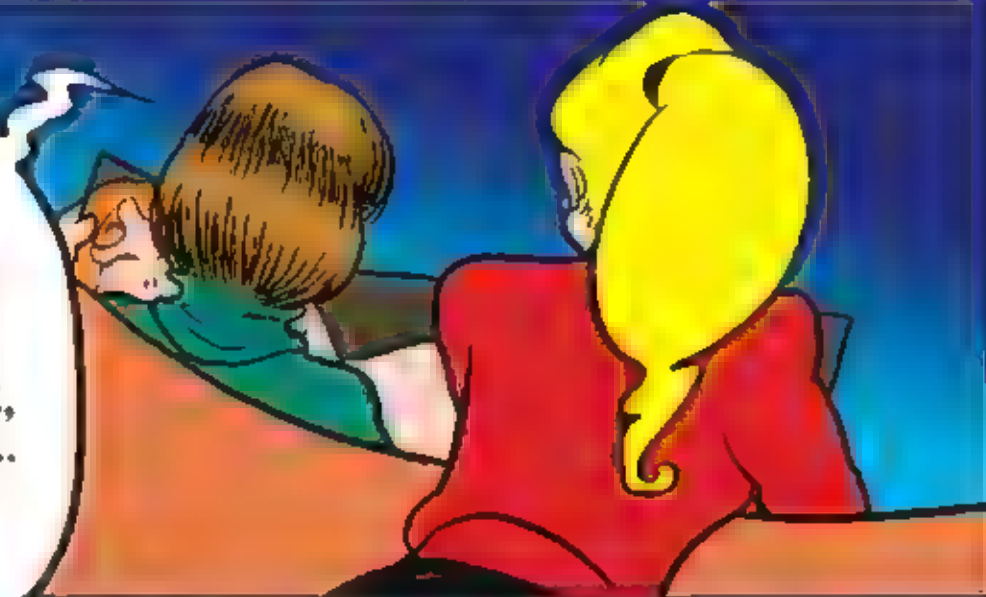


I TAKE IT OUT OCCASIONALLY
TO REFRESH MY MEMORY
OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE
TO HAVE A MAN OF
SUCH TASTES AT
CLOSE QUARTERS.



Brooke

ODDLY, I HAD
A MOMENTARY
FLIGHT OF FANCY...
I WAS WONDERING
WHAT IT MUST BE
LIKE TO LIVE LIFE
AS THIS PNEUMATIC,
MICROWIT BIMBOLD...
...AND JUST FOR A
MOMENT, SHE
HAD MY FACE.



THAT'S AMAZING!...I WAS
WONDERING WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO BE A CENTER-
FOLD, AND FOR A
SECOND SHE HAD...



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...YOUR FACE,
TOO.

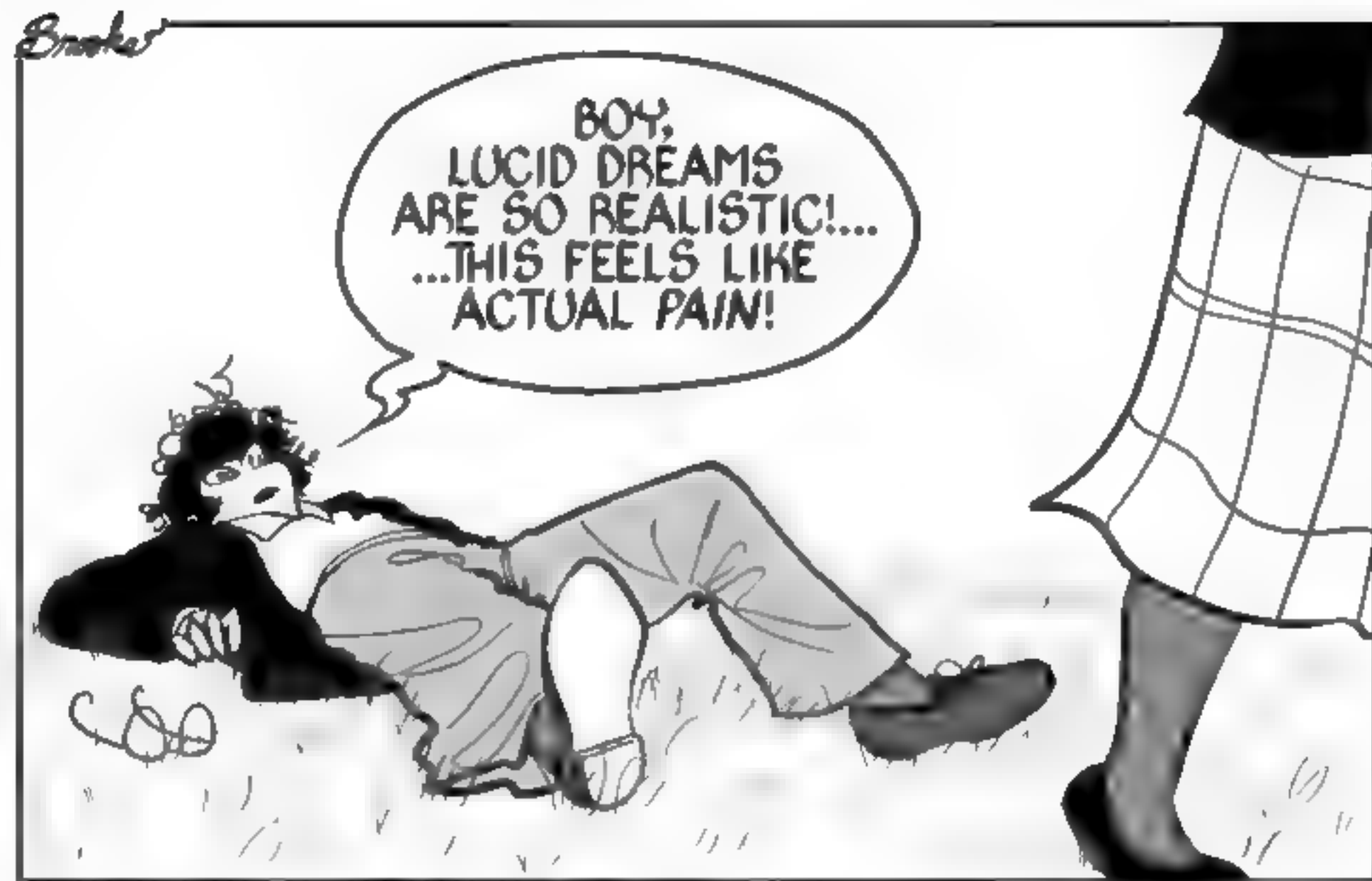


MOM, I THINK WE SHOULD CALL AMOS' FOLKS
AND LET THEM KNOW HE'S BEEN SLEEP-
WALKING, -ENTERING,
-CLIMBING,
-CLAMBERING
AND
-PERCHING.

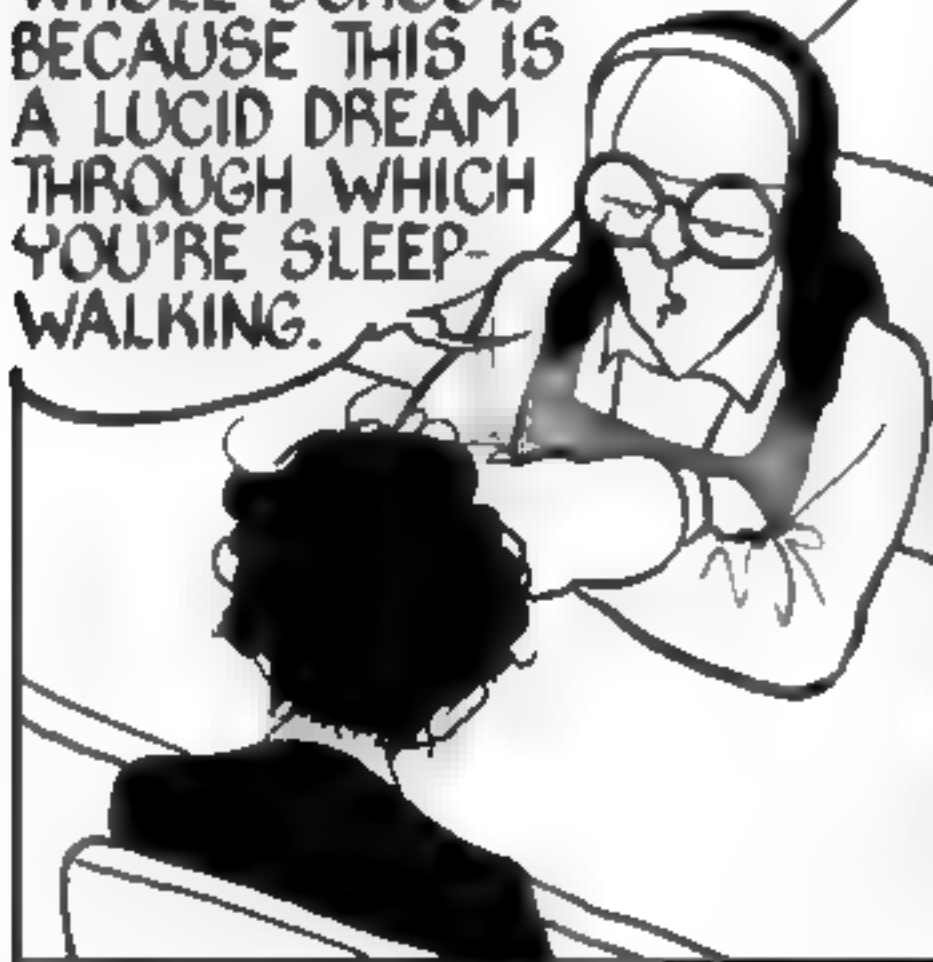


I'M FOLLOWING
THE TRAIL OF HYPHENS,
AND I DON'T LIKE WHERE
THEY LEAD.





SO THAT'S YOUR STORY...
YOU KISSED MISS ROSEN-
ZWEIG IN FRONT OF THE
WHOLE SCHOOL
BECAUSE THIS IS
A LUCID DREAM
THROUGH WHICH
YOU'RE SLEEP-
WALKING.

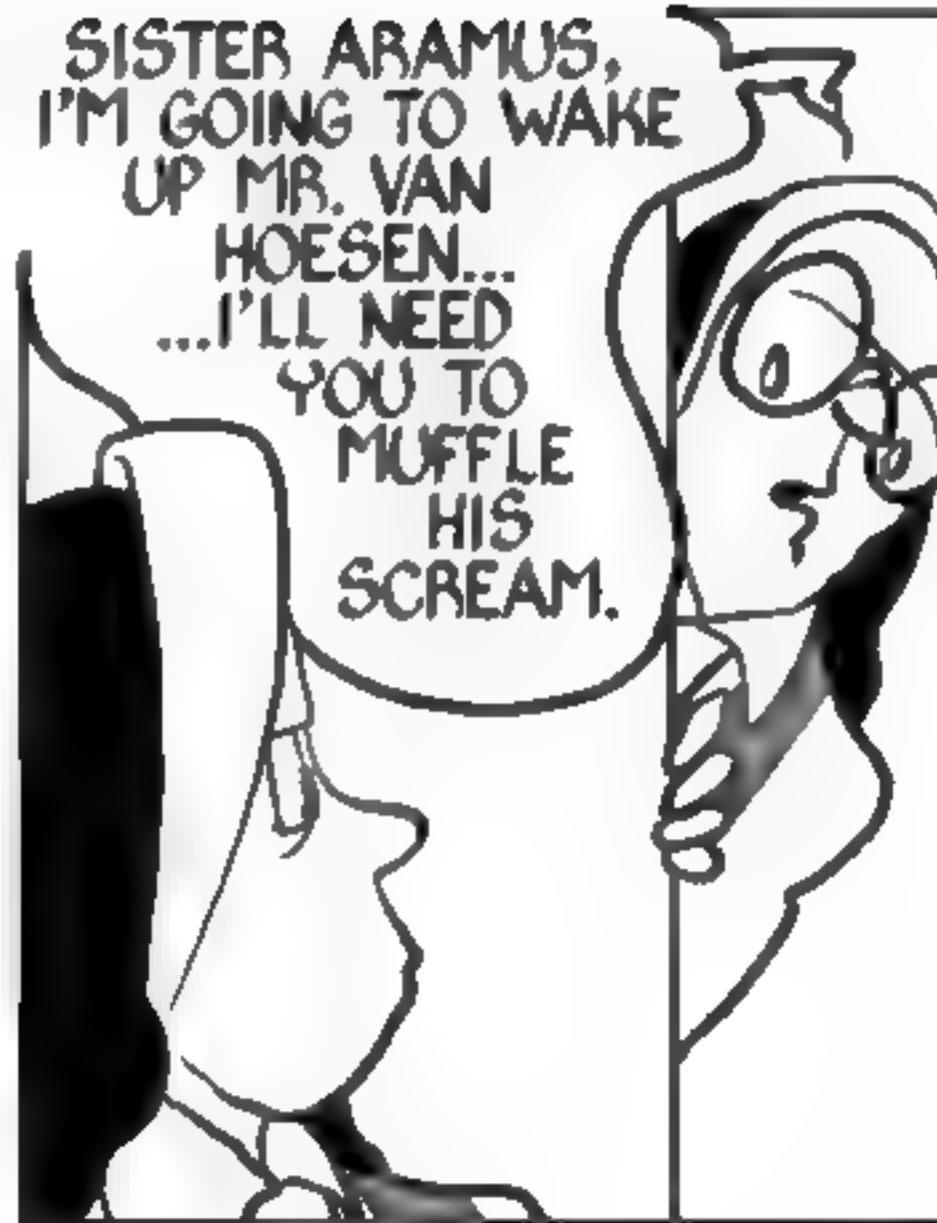


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AND YOU
EXPECT ME
TO BELIEVE
THAT.



SISTER ARAMUS,
I'M GOING TO WAKE
UP MR. VAN
HOESEN...
...I'LL NEED
YOU TO
MUFFLE
HIS
SCREAM.



SO AMOS, THE MOST REPELLENT BOY YOU KNOW, THOUGHT HE WAS HAVING A LUCID DREAM AND KISSED YOU AT SCHOOL.

THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.



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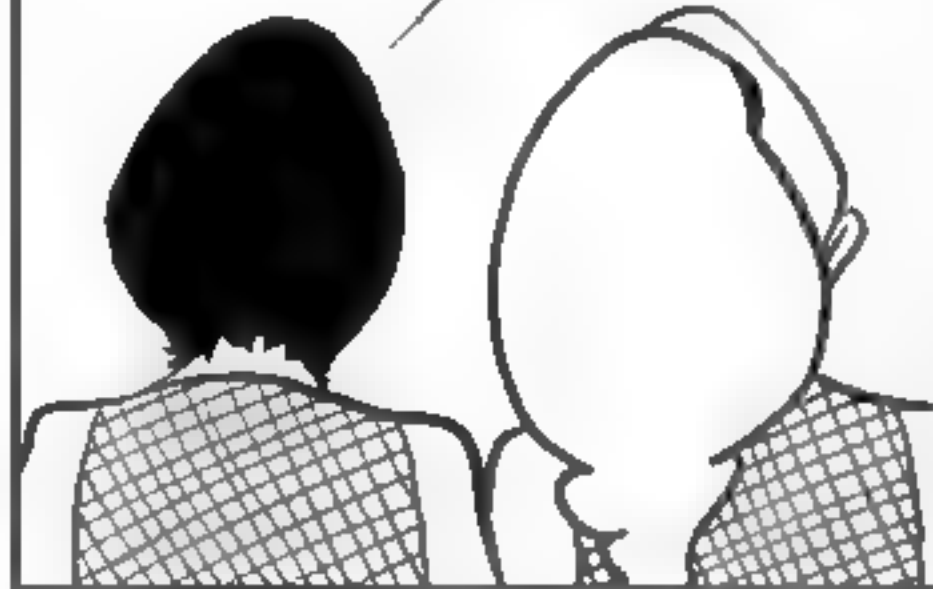
WITHOUT FEAR OR DIFFIDENCE?

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE.



EVERYBODY STARING?

IT WAS A NIGHTMARE.



WAS HE, UM, GOOD?

HE WAS FANTASTIC.



Brooks

JUST FOR THE RECORD, MAY
I SAY THAT YOU'RE THE
LOONIEST OLD COOT
I'VE EVER MET?

YES.

"YES"?
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
"YES"?!
YES, YOU MAY
SAY I'M THE
LOONIEST OLD
COOT YOU'VE
EVER MET.

YES, YOU MAY
SAY I'M THE
LOONIEST OLD
COOT YOU'VE
EVER MET.

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Broke

NOBODY
ASKS
PERMISSION
TO INFLICT
VERBAL
ABUSE.

WHAT A PITY.
...IT'S THE
NICETIES
I MISS.

Brooke

HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 180

THE SENSE
THAT SOME
BEING IN
THE GRIP OF
A PARANOID
DELUSION...

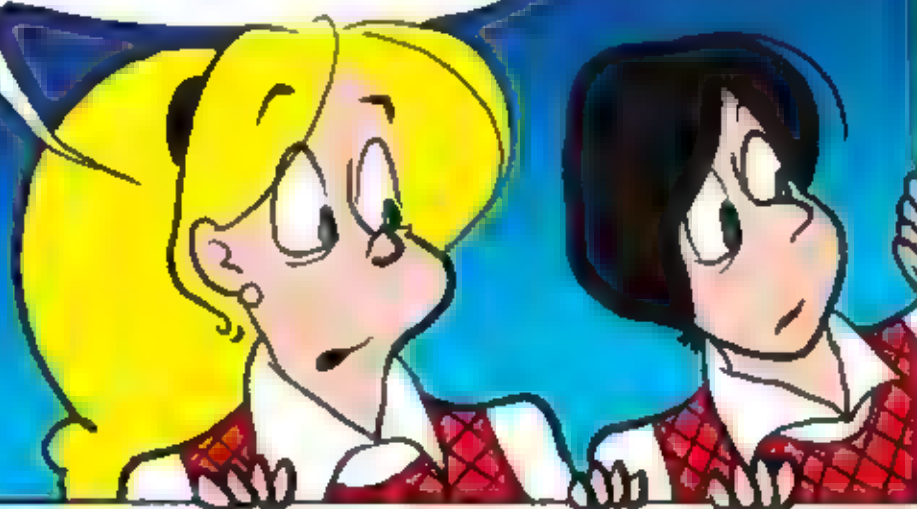
...MAY
OR MAY NOT
HAVE JUST
ROCKETED
THROUGH THE
PERIPHERY
OF ONE'S
CONSCIOUSNESS...

...ALTHOUGH
ONE CANNOT
BE ABSOLUTELY
CERTAIN...

...OF IT.

9 CHICKWEED LANE

THERE HE IS...HE LOOKS HARMLESS,
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL.

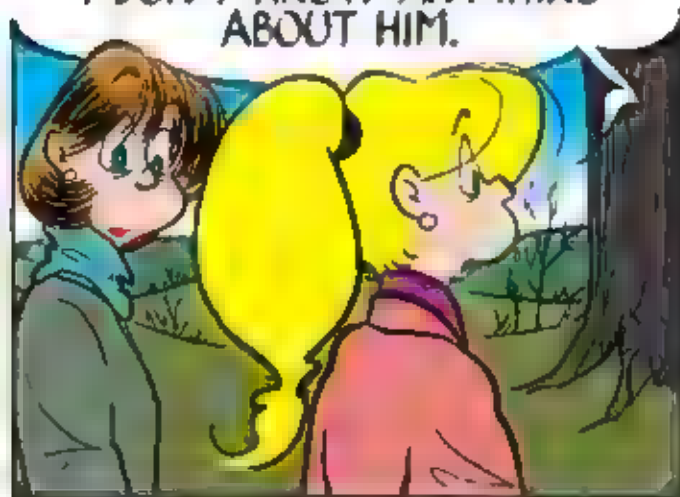


ONE DAY THERE'LL BE A WAY
TO FIND IF A GUY'S A JERK
WITHOUT EXPOSING ONESELF
TO PERSONAL
RISK.

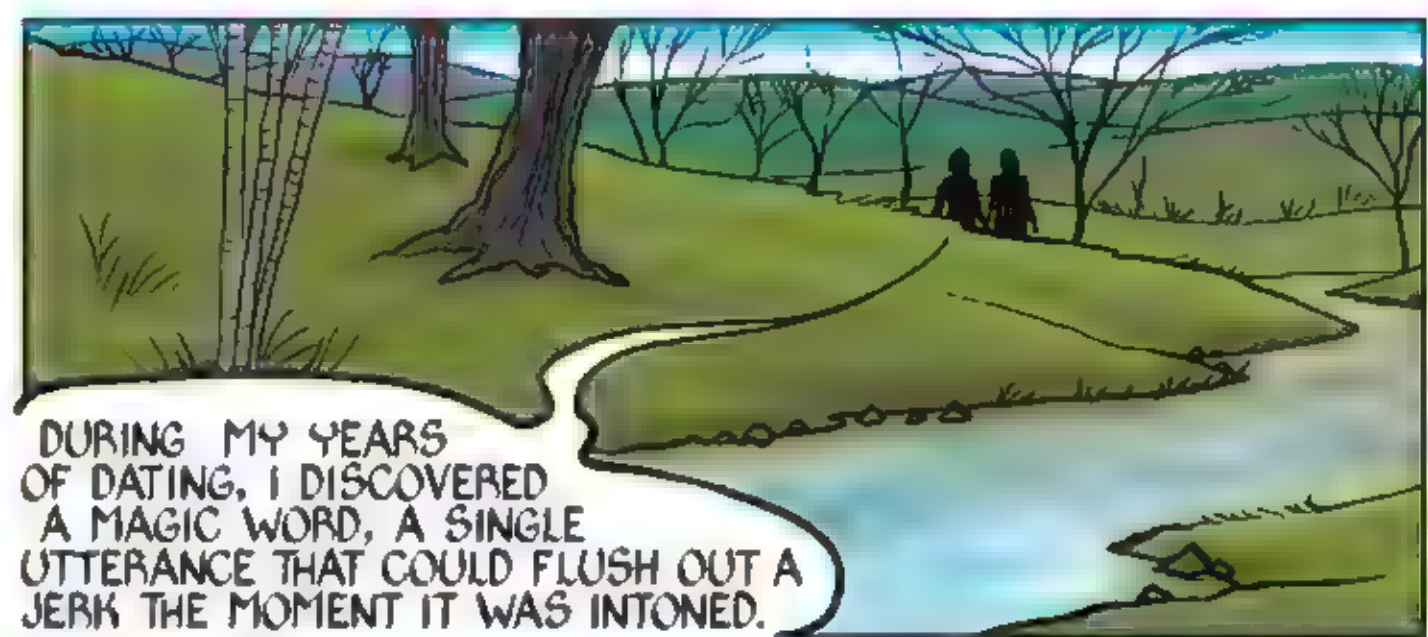
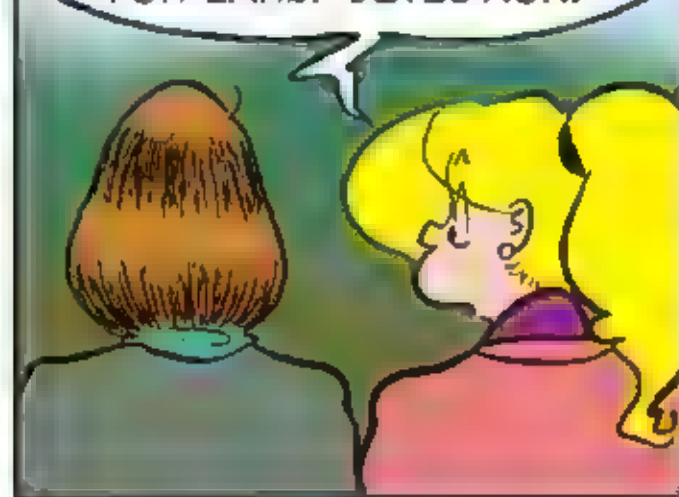
YOU'RE A
VISIONARY!



THERE'S A BOY AT SCHOOL...
...HE'S NICE-LOOKING, BUT
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT HIM.

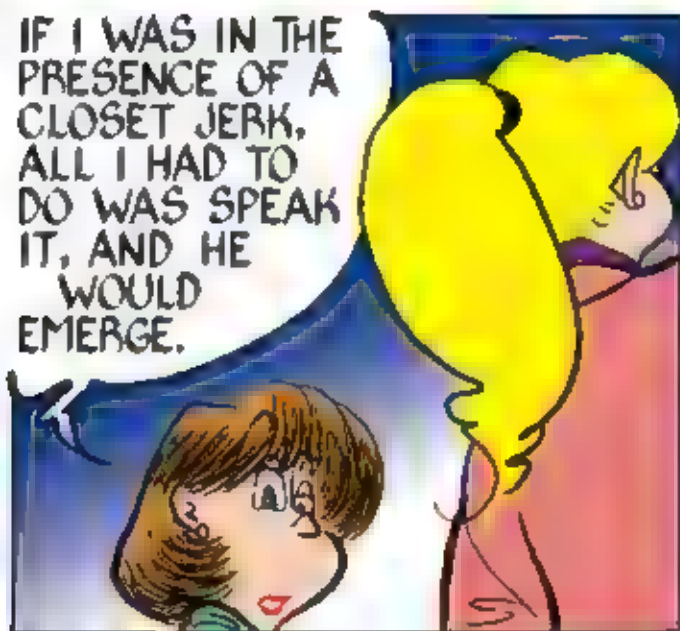


WHAT IF HE'S A JERK?...I WISH
THERE WERE SOME DEVICE
FOR EARLY DETECTION.



DURING MY YEARS
OF DATING, I DISCOVERED
A MAGIC WORD, A SINGLE
UTTERANCE THAT COULD FLUSH OUT A
JERK THE MOMENT IT WAS INTONED.

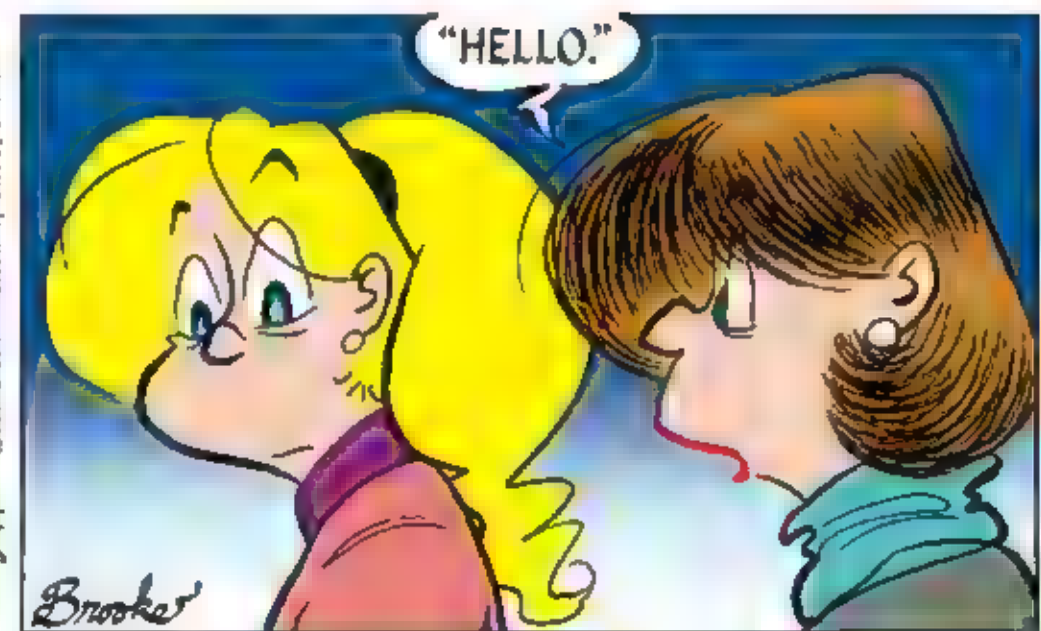
IF I WAS IN THE
PRESENCE OF A
CLOSET JERK,
ALL I HAD TO
DO WAS SPEAK
IT, AND HE
WOULD
EMERGE.



AND WHAT
IS THIS MAGIC
WORD?



"HELLO."



HOW
DID SHE
GET UP
THERE?!



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DON'T
ASK
ME.



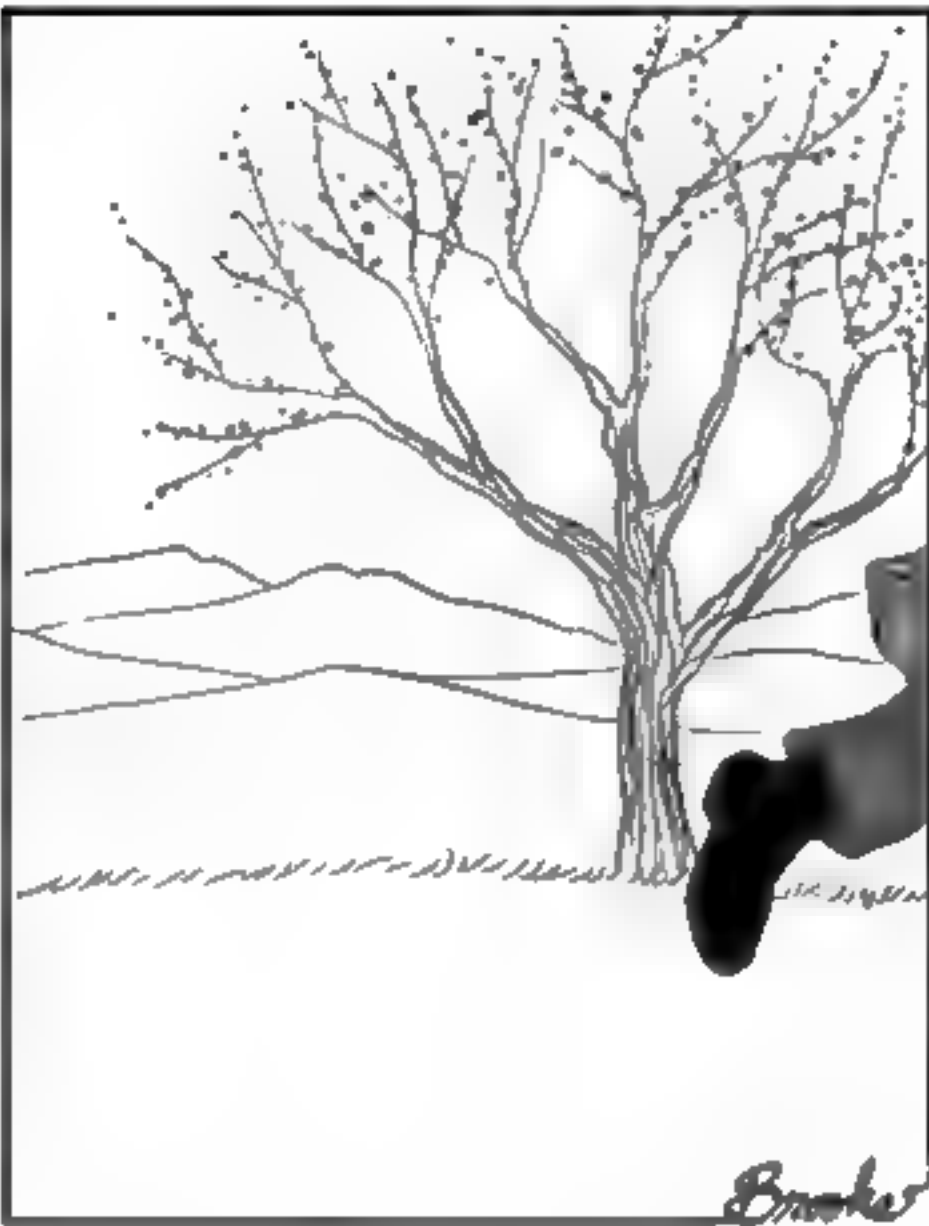
Brooke



A WARM BREEZE!
THE FIRST
HARBINGER
OF
SPRING!



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WINTER
AND ITS
STINKING
LAST-
MINUTE
MOOD
SWINGS.





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CURSE YOU, WINTER...
YOU AND YOUR
LOUSY
MOOD
SWINGS!



I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU,
YOUNG LADY, AND IT'S
CLEARLY TIME SOMEONE
TALKED TO YOU ABOUT THE
WAY YOU'RE ACTING.



FIRST OF ALL, WHEN YOU
SHAKE AN EMBITTERED
FIST AT THE HEAVENS,
DO IT FROM THE
SHOULDER.

KEEP YOUR ELBOW AND
WRIST LOOSE FOR
MAXIMUM FREEDOM
OF MOVEMENT...



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Brooke

GRAN FINDS SOMETHING
NEGATIVE TO SAY ABOUT
EVERYTHING. SHE CANNOT
RESIST IT.



BUT THIS TIME I HAVE HER...
THIS SILK SWATCH COMBINES
HER FAVORITE COLORS AND
FAVORITE PATTERN WITH
A FABRIC SHE ADORES.
SHE CAN'T FIND
A SINGLE
NEGATIVE
WORD TO
APPLY
TO IT.



GRAN, WHAT
DO YOU
THINK OF
THIS MAT-
ERIAL?

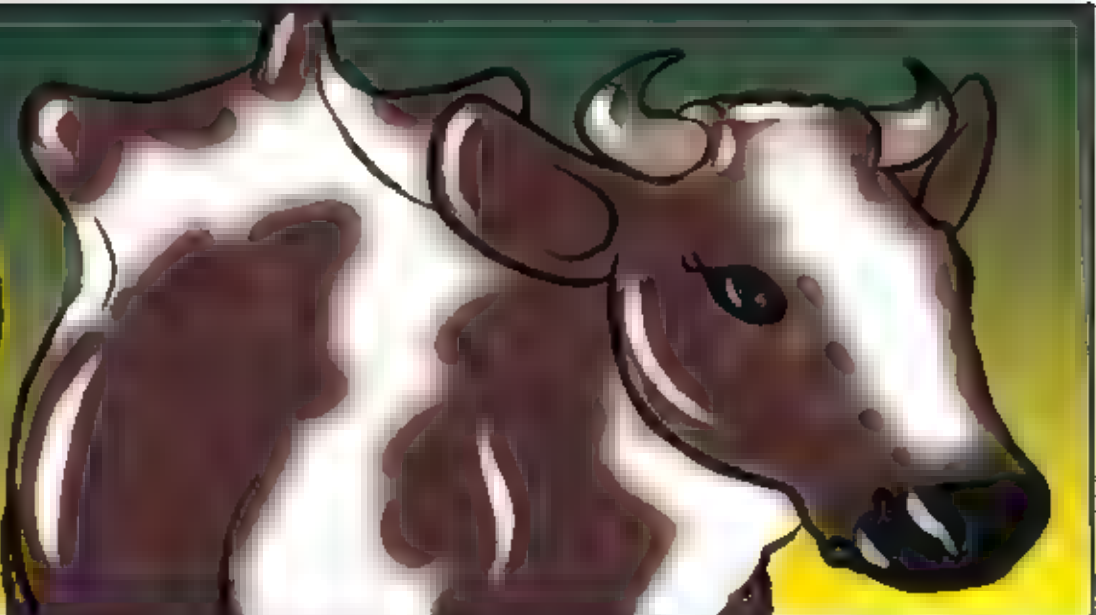


IT'S NOT
UNLOVELY.

SO SHE
FOUND A
DOUBLE-
NEGATIVE.



9
CHICKWEED
LANE
®



I JUST STOPPED OFF AT GRANDMA LOLA'S NURSING HOME.

HOW IS THE POOR DEAR?

THE OLD COW.

I'M AFRAID SHE PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT.

OH, HOW AWFULLY SAD.

THE OLD COW.

THEY SAID SHE DIED PEACEFULLY...BUT BEFORE SHE WENT, SHE ASKED THEM TO GIVE YOU TWO OF HER FAVORITE CHINA FIGURINES.

REALLY?!

THE OLD COW.

ONE IS THIS LITTLE DAIRY COW.

THE OLD C-

THE OTHER'S THIS CUTE BOXER WITH THE LITTER OF PUPPIES.

Brooke

GOT THE LAST WORD, DIDN'T SHE?

NO MATTER
WHERE WE GO,
YOU ALWAYS
SENSE MASSIVE,
GOVERNMENT
CONSPIRACIES.

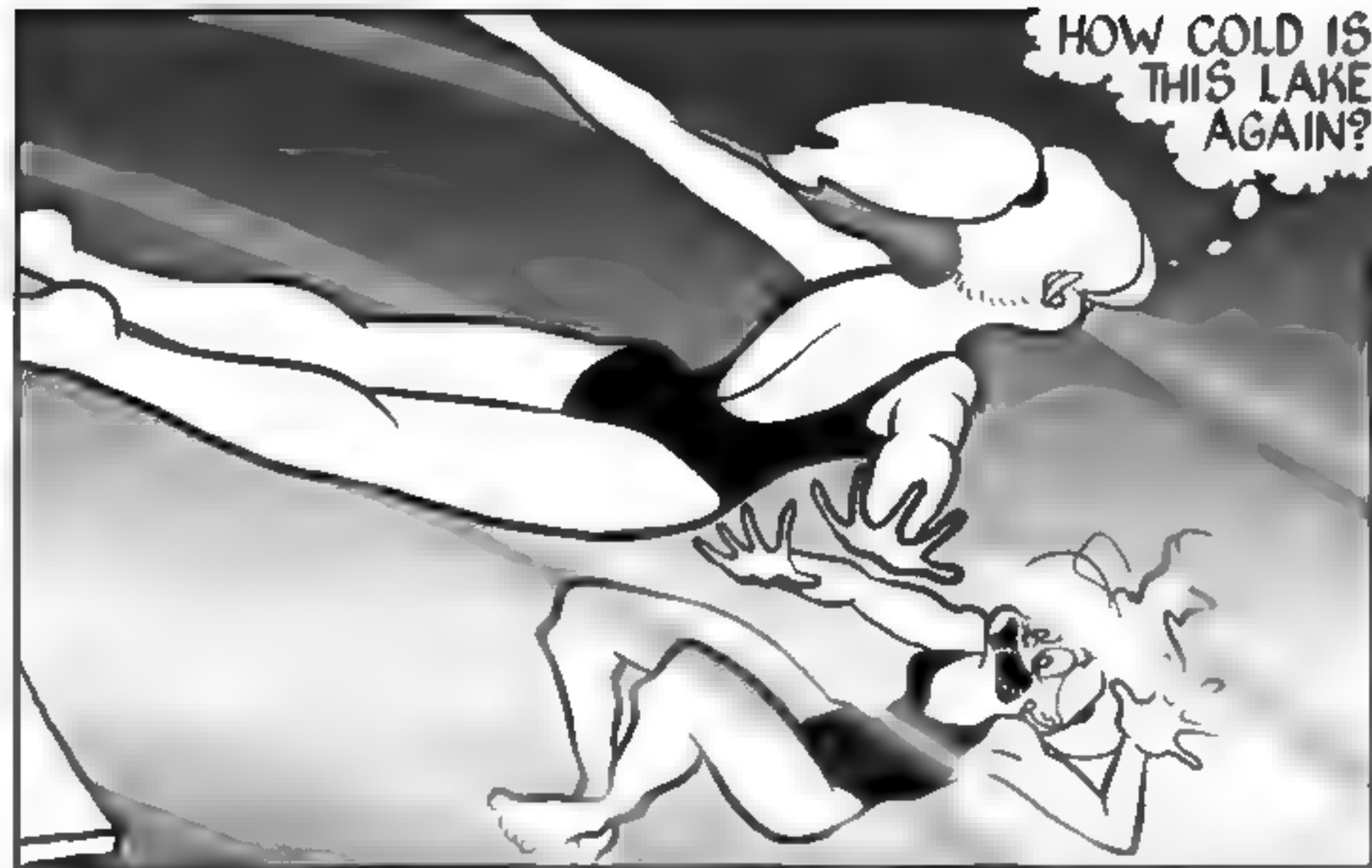


Brooke



THE FIRST
SECOND THOUGHT
OF SPRING

Brooke



HOW COLD IS
THIS LAKE
AGAIN?

THE FACT IS, YOU REJECT
LOOKING UPON ME IN A
ROMANTIC LIGHT BECAUSE
YOUR BIGOTED SOCIAL
MILIEU REGARDS INVOLVE-
MENT WITH A PERSON LIKE
ME AS...HOW SHOULD I
PUT IT?...



...BANNED, UNTHINKABLE,
PROSCRIBED, PROHIBITED,
OUTLAWED...
...FORBIDDEN...



Brooke

...TABOO.

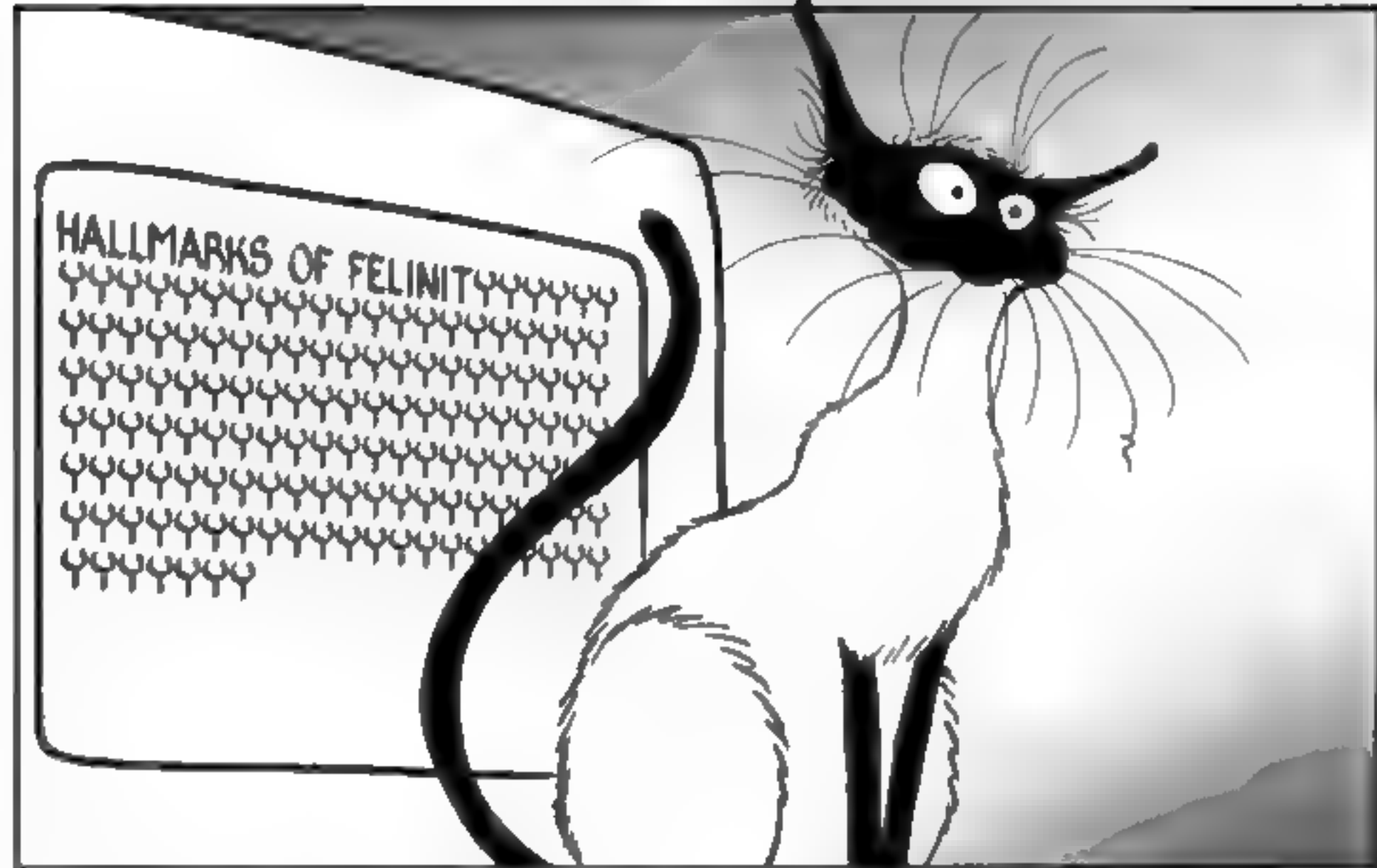
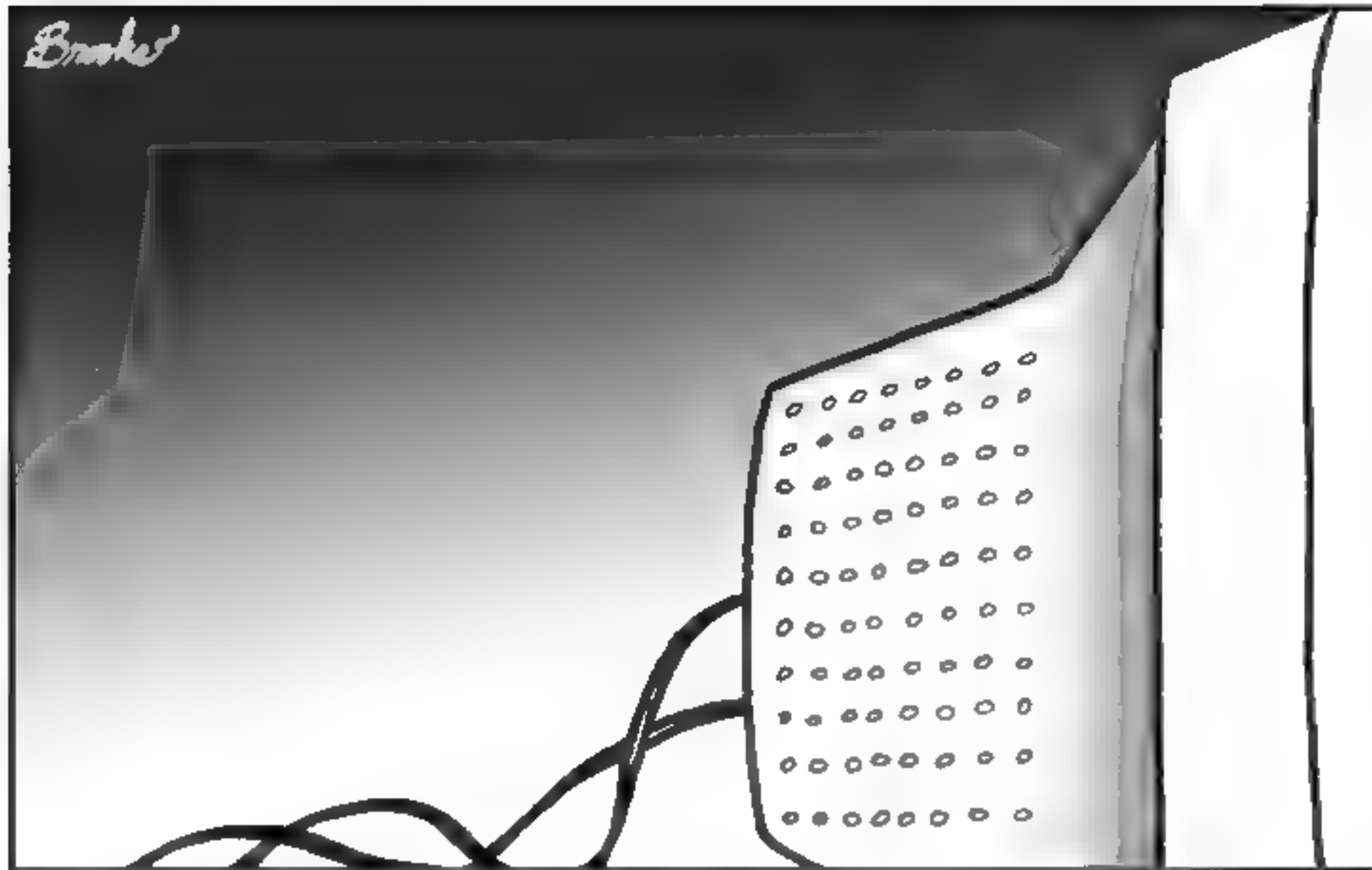


SOMETIMES I WONDER IF
THERE'S MORE TO
AMOS THAN
MEETS THE
EYE.

YEAH,
A POCKET
THESAURUS.



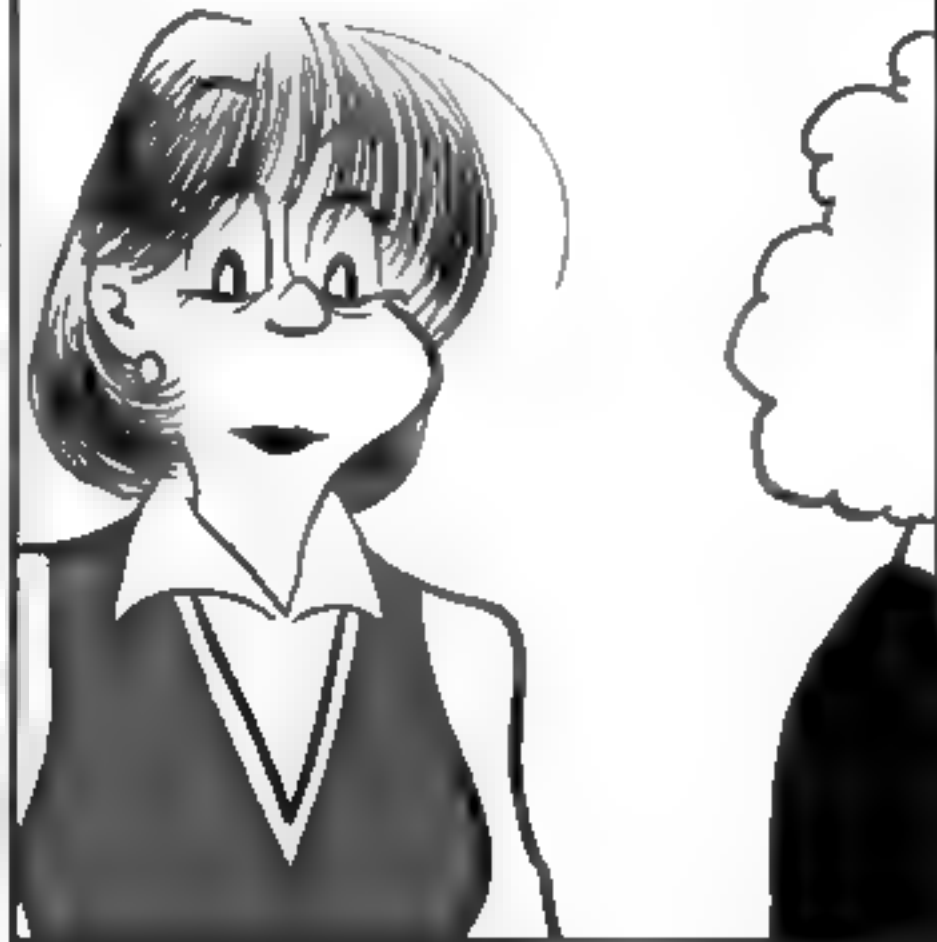
Broke



ALLOW ME TO BE THE
FIRST TO SAY WHAT A
WONDERFUL PERSON
YOU ARE.



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Brooke



...SOMEBODY
MUST HAVE
SAID IT
BEFORE.



WHEN WE'RE OUT TOGETHER
PEOPLE MUST
THINK I'M
DATING AN
UNDERGRAD-
UATE.

THEN THEY
MUST THINK
I SNAGGED
THE
PROM
QUEEN.



BUT MORE LIKELY, I'M
BEING CALLED
A CRADLE
ROBBER.

I'LL BET YOU
HAVE A PORTRAIT
AT HOME THAT
AGES FOR
YOU.



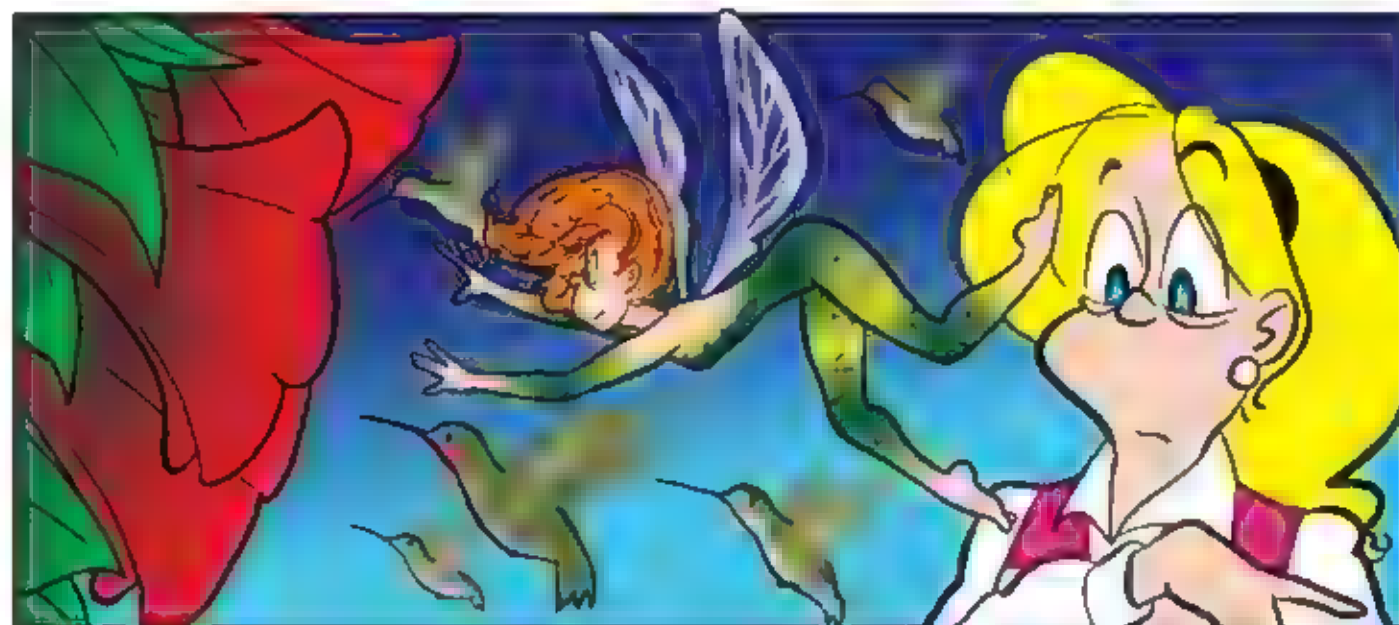
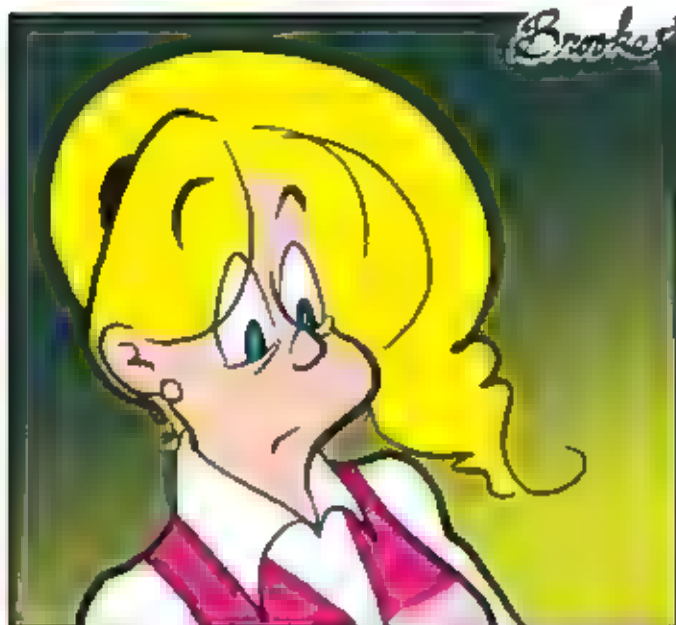
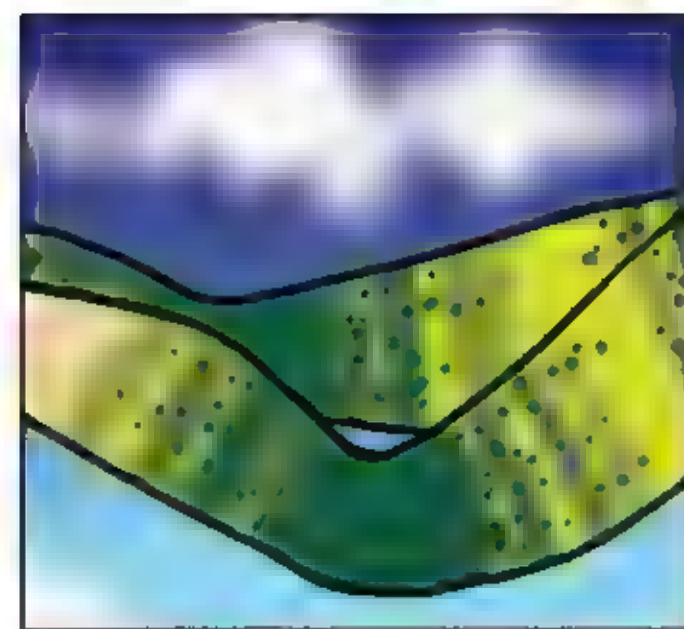
Brooke



WELL, WHAT
HAVE YOU
AND ELLIOTT
BEEN DOING?



LYING
LIKE
MAD.



YOU'VE BEEN SO
CROSS WITH ME OF LATE.
IS IT BECAUSE OF MY
LITTLE ECCEN-
TRICITIES?



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I COULD CURB THEM IF THAT
WOULD HELP, BUTTERNUT.
I ONLY MEAN WELL,
AFTER ALL.



OH, HUSH,
YOU SILLY
THING.



SALIVA! ON MY
CHEEK! OH, MY
LORD! I'M
MELTING!





SO, MR. THORAX, YOU'VE
MELTED, HAVE YOU?

YES,
DOCTOR,
IT'S
BUTTERNUT'S
FAULT...
...SHE...



Brooke

NO,
MR. THORAX.

NO?

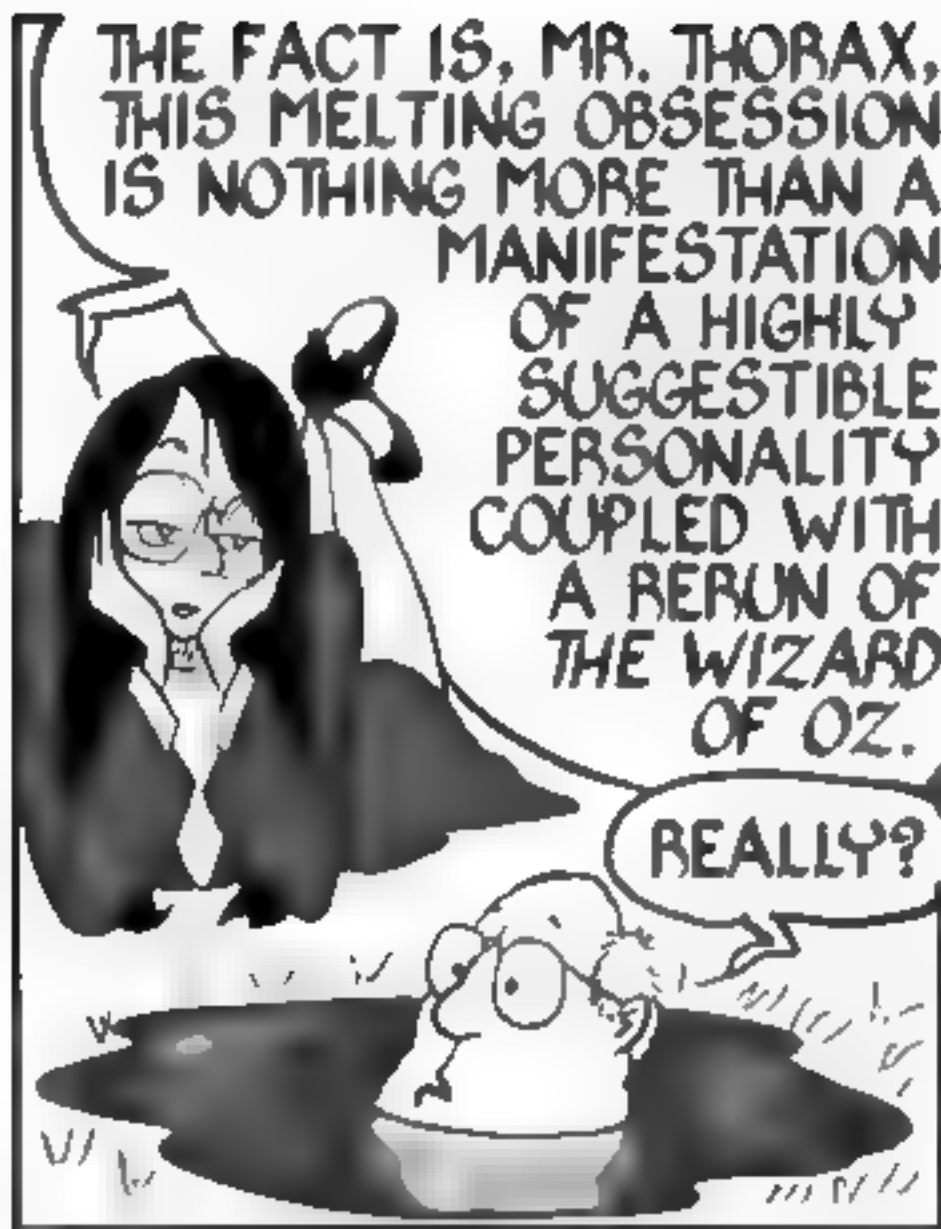


YOU'RE STANDING
IN A HOLE SIX
FEET DEEP, FILLED
WITH A VISCOUS
GUCK, THE COM-
POSITION OF
WHICH I TREMBLE
TO IMAGINE, SO
ONLY YOUR HEAD
STICKS OUT. IT'S
ALL A PATHETIC
ILLUSION.



A HARSH
ASSESSMENT,
DOCTOR,
GIVEN THE
HEAVY
HAND THAT
APPLIES
YOUR
MASCARA.





NO! NO, MADELEINE!
DON'T! STOP,
MADELEINE!
PLEASE!

SLURP...
SLURP...



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GRK!



BUTTERNUT, I JUST AWOKED,
DEPOSITED IN A PASTURE.
AND I HAVE NO MEMORY OF
HOW I GOT
THERE.

JUST
AS WELL,
IF YOU
ASK ME.



WHAT'S
THAT
YOU'RE
CHEWING
ON?

I'M NOT CERTAIN.
BUT IT APPEARS
TO BE A CUD.



WELL, IF YOU CAN'T SEE
THE SCREEN, WHY DON'T YOU
JUST ASK HIM TO TAKE OFF
HIS HAT?

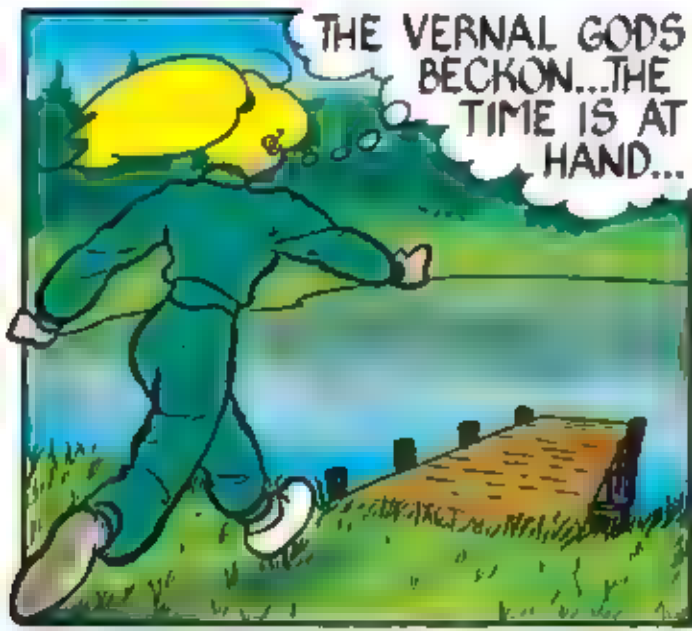


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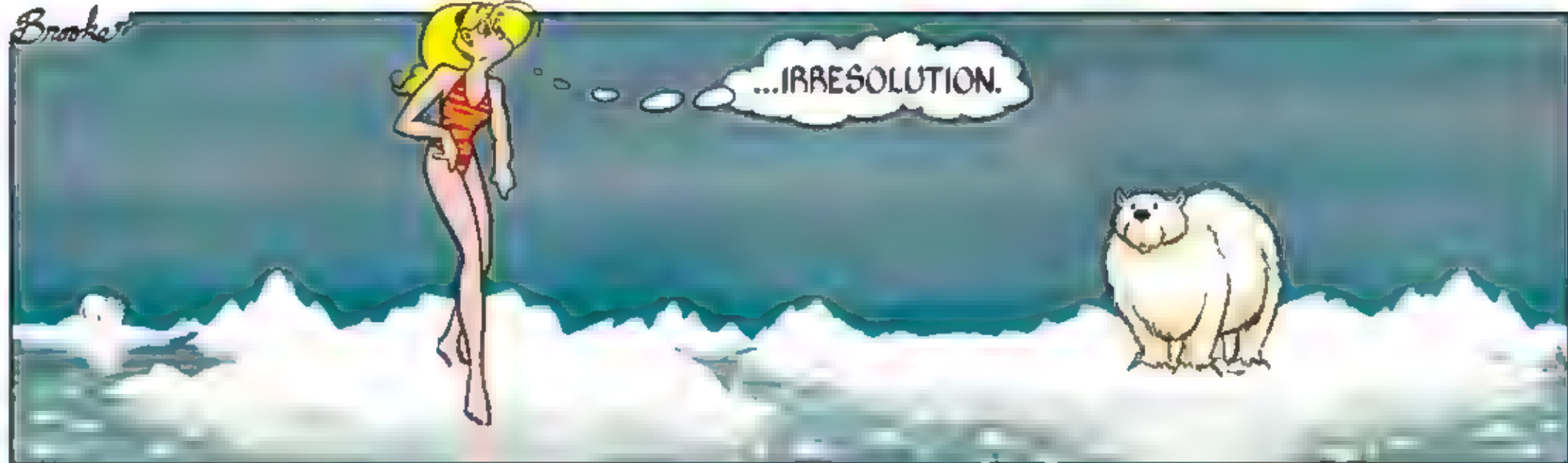
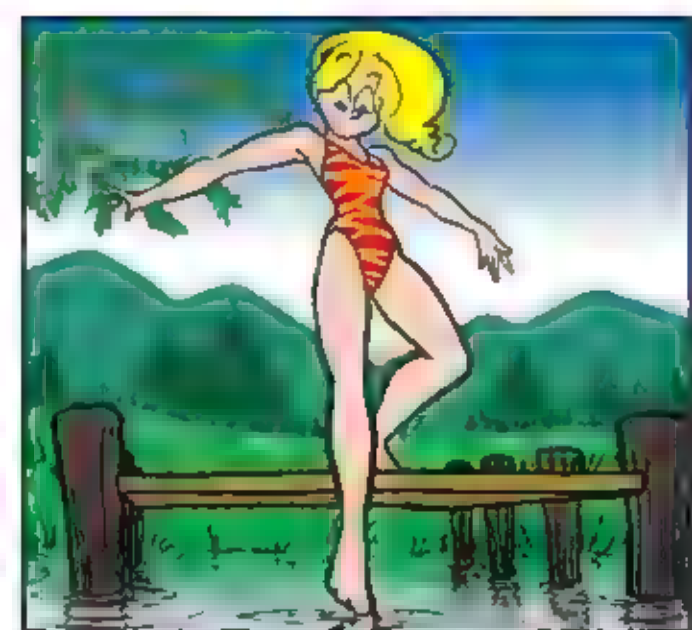
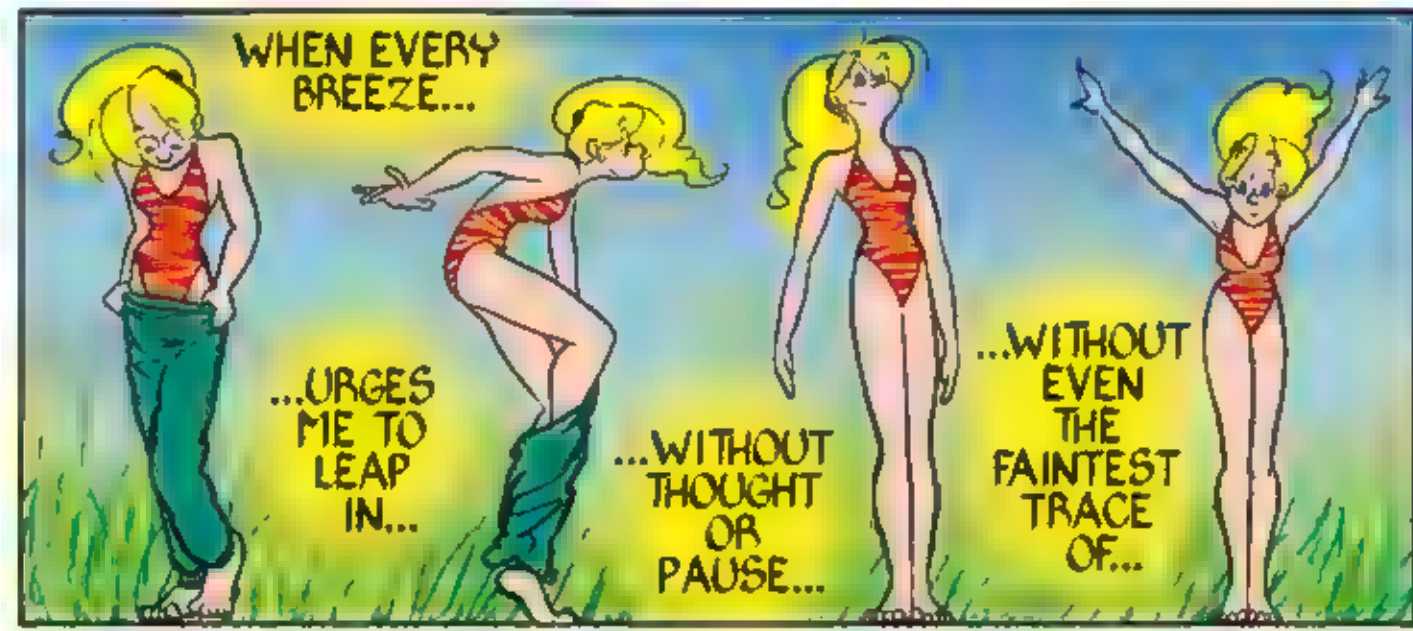
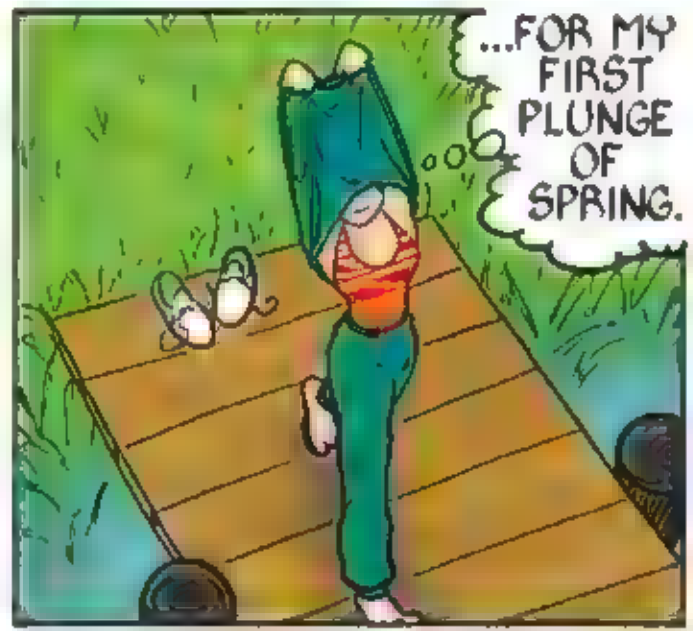
I DON'T KNOW.
...I'M JUST
HESITANT.



9
CHICKWEED
LANE
®



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IT'S TIME WE HAD
A SERIOUS TALK.

OKAY.



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YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING
TO LISTEN...YOU'RE NOT
EVEN HERE, ARE YOU?



Brooke

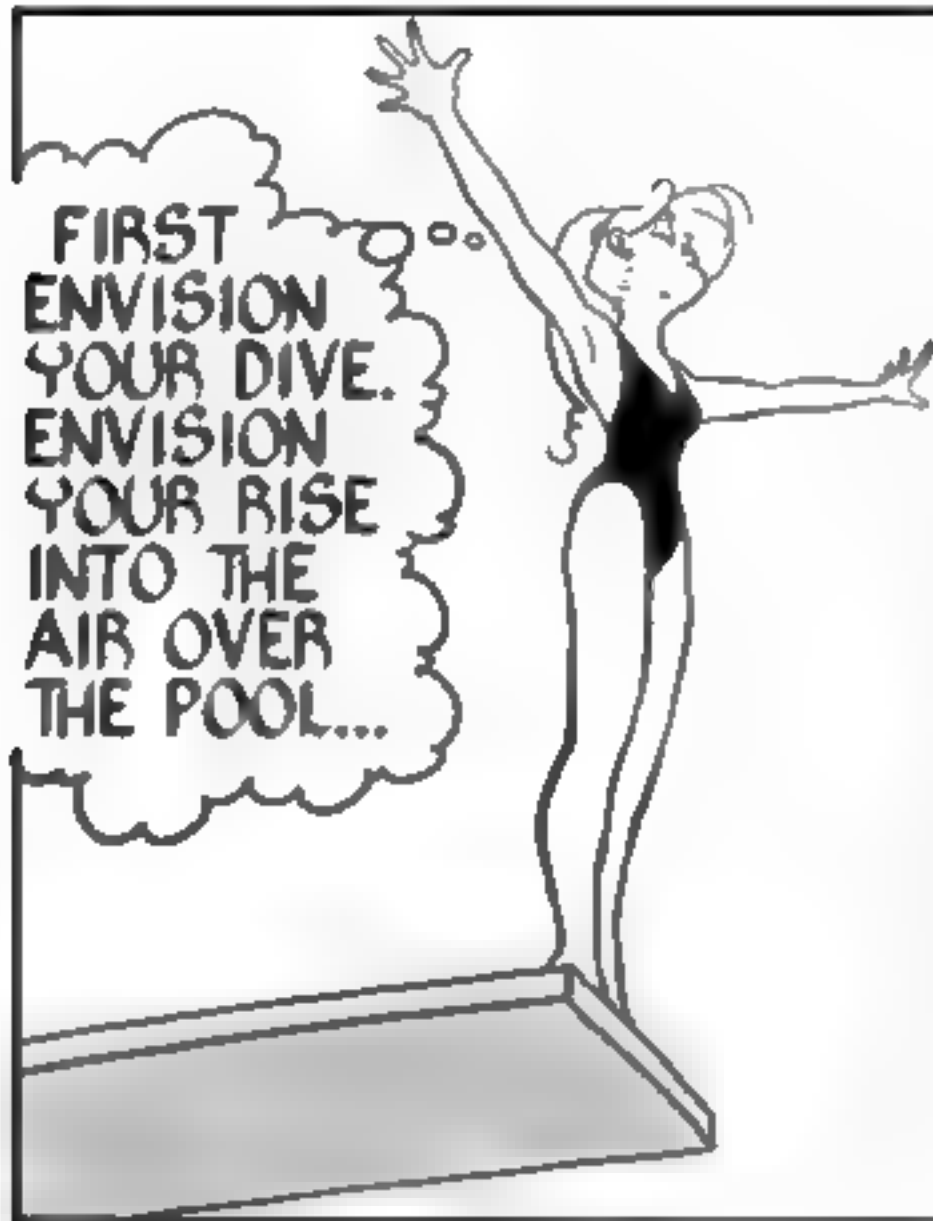


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MOM, YOU WOULD SEEM
TO BE PURRING.





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EDDA? ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
I SWEAR, YOU ACT AS IF YOU'RE
800 MILLION MILES AWAY.



Brooks

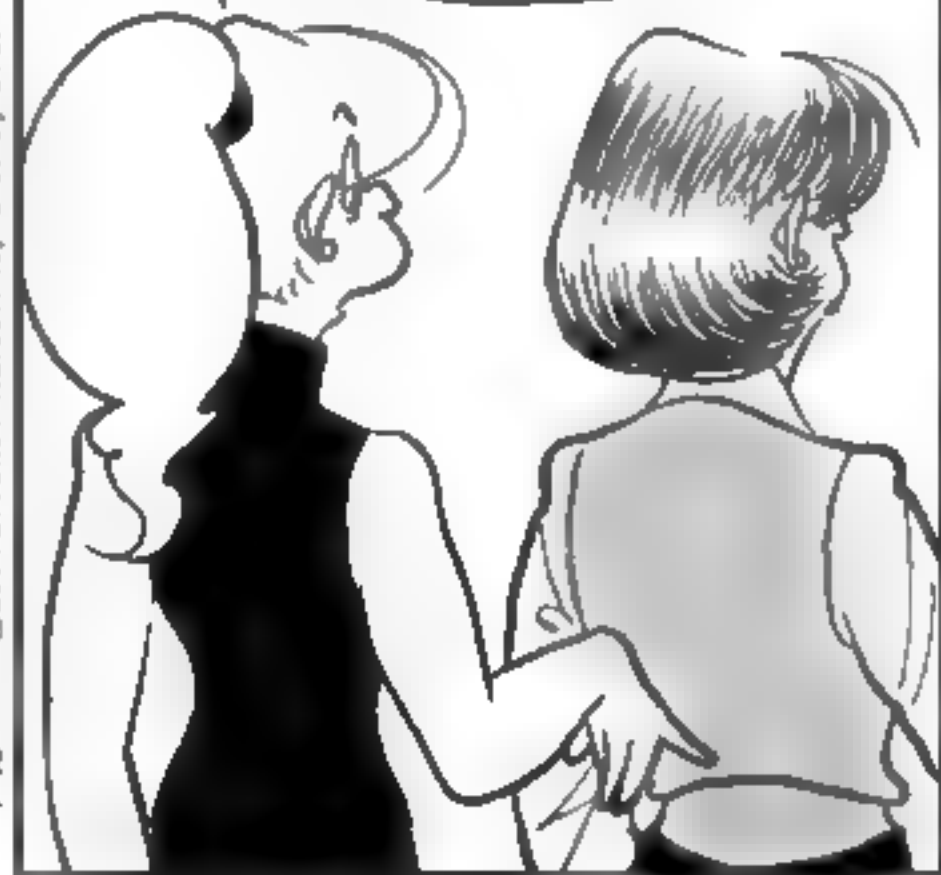
APPROXIMATELY.



WHEN GRAN STARTS
GRIPING AT ME, I
AUTOMATICALLY
FIND MY MIND
800 MILLION
MILES
AWAY.



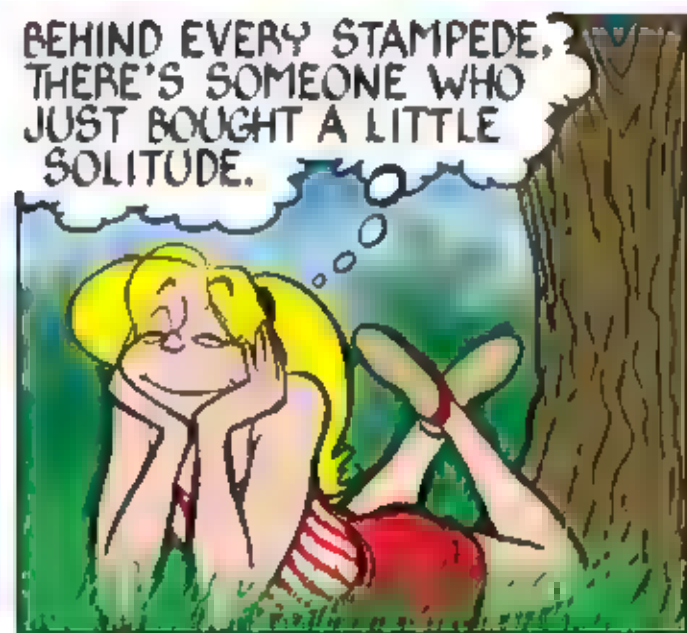
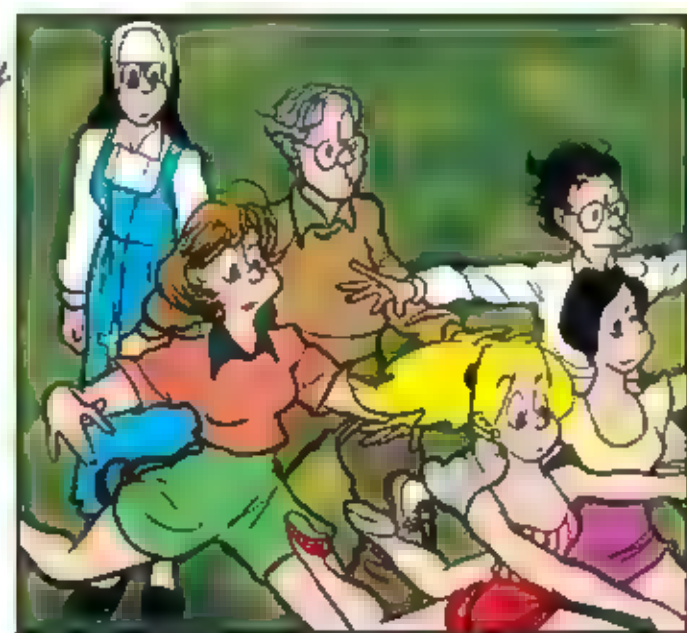
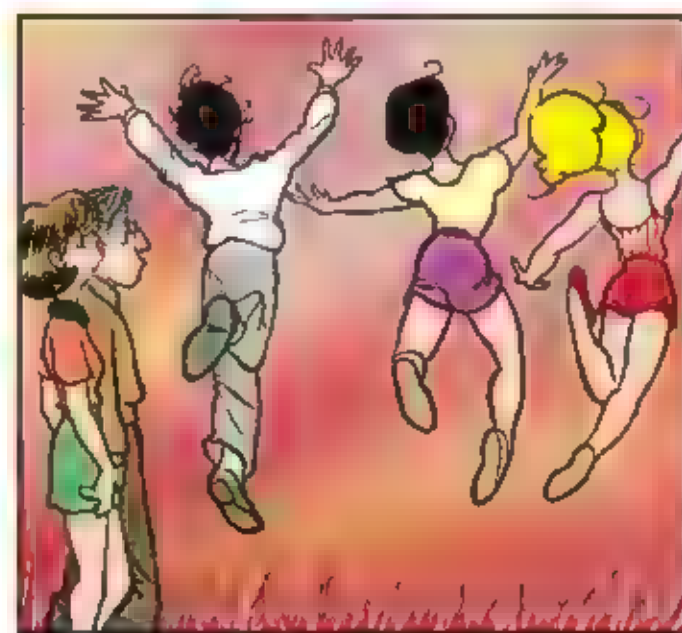
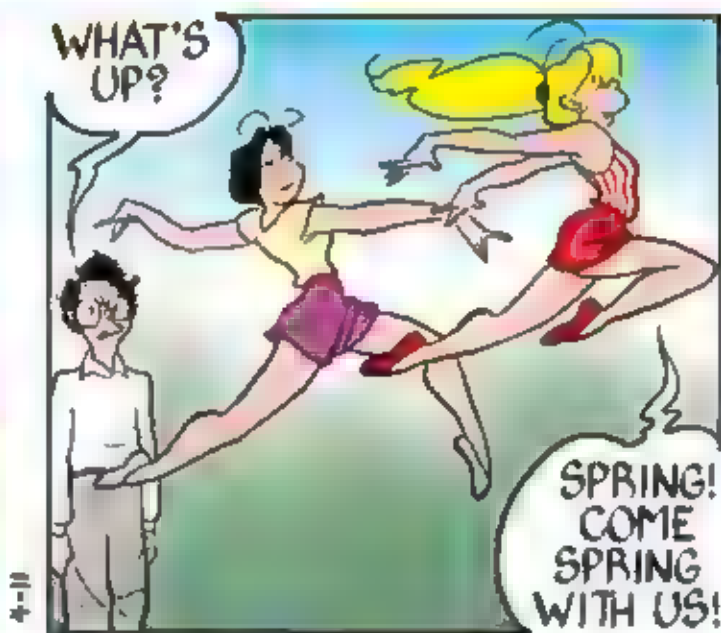
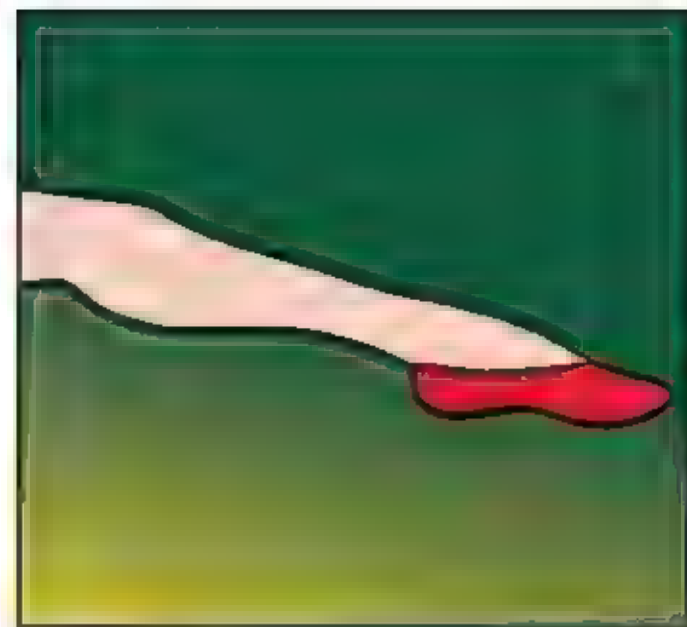
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOU, MOM?...MOM?
IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOU?

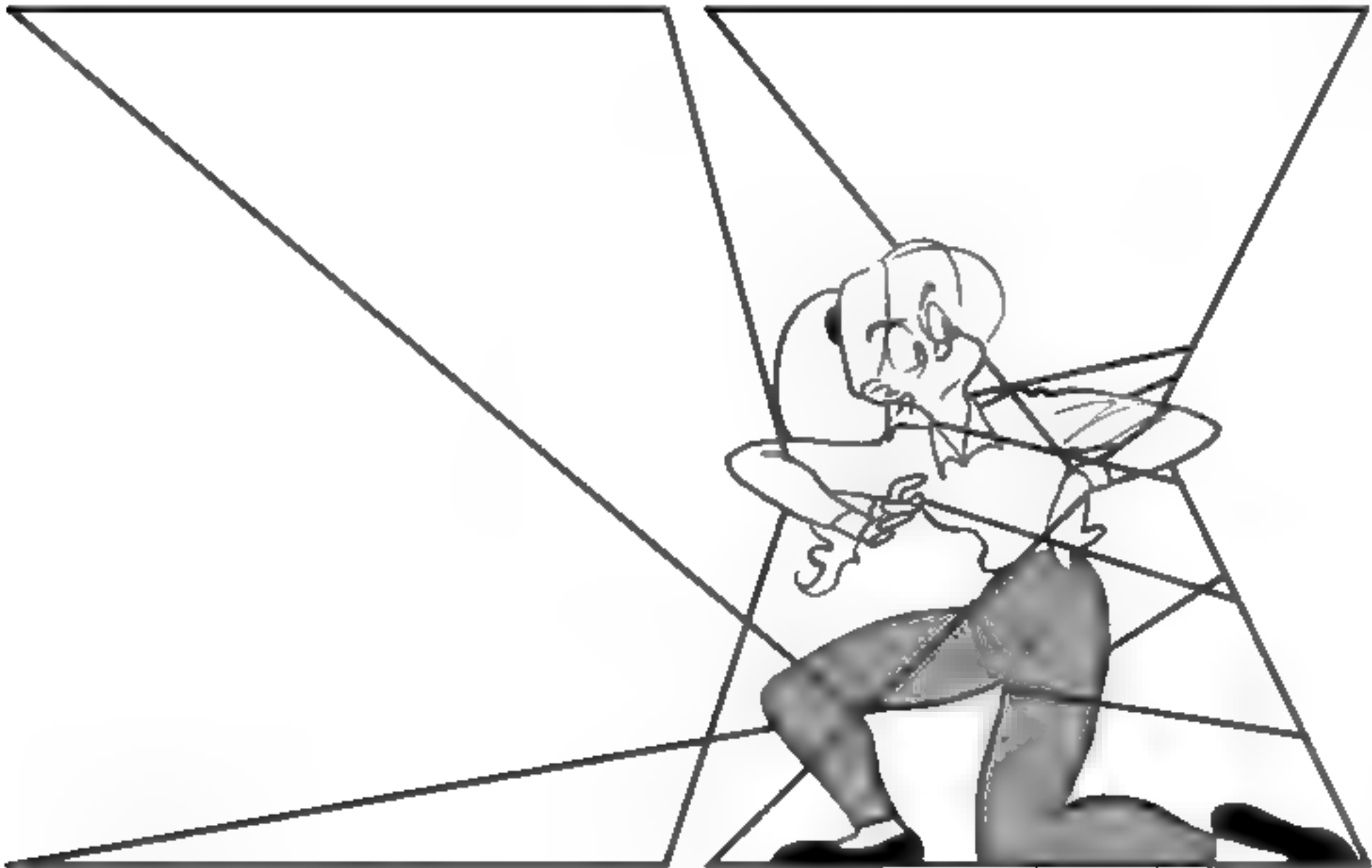


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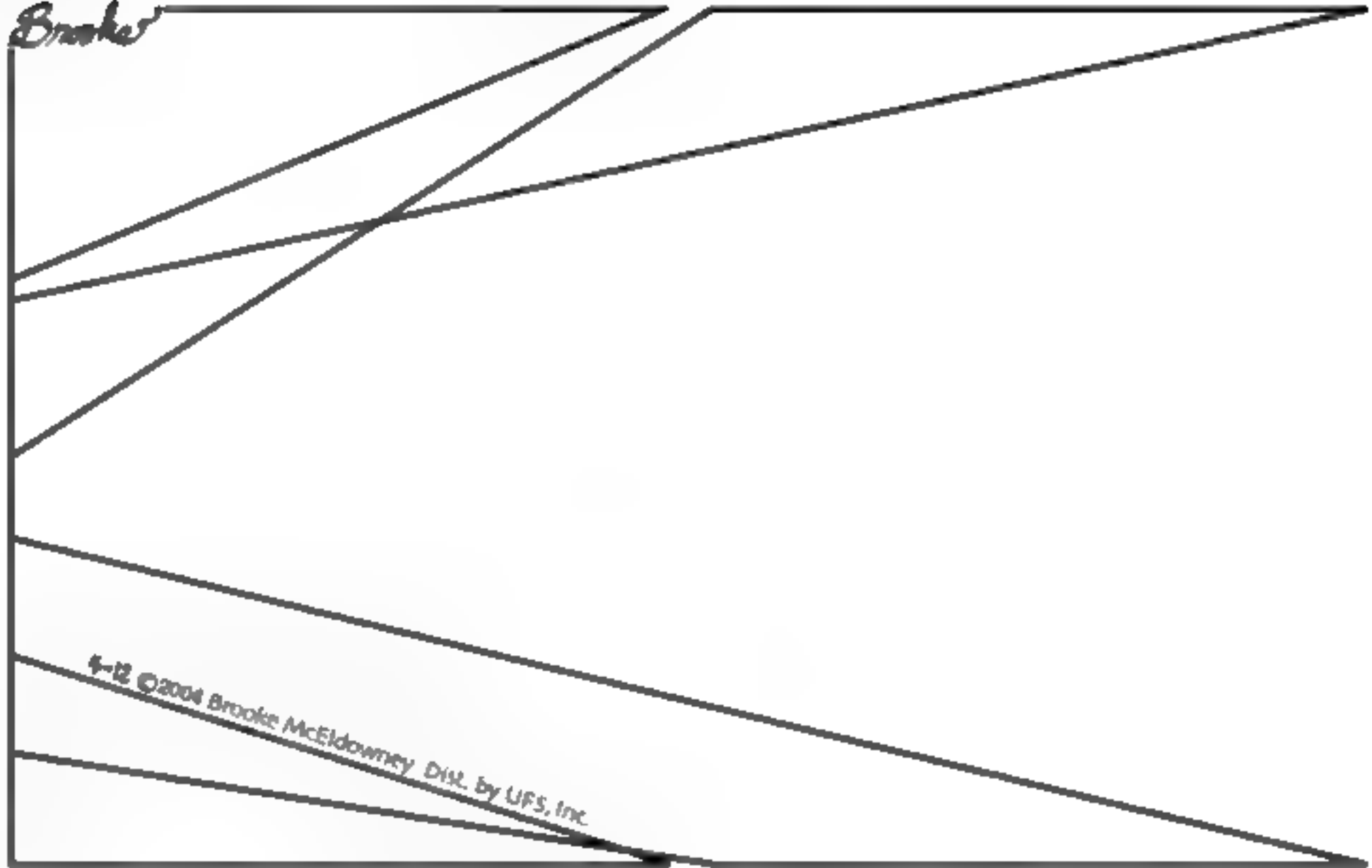


A FEW
THOUSAND
USUALLY WORKS
FOR ME.



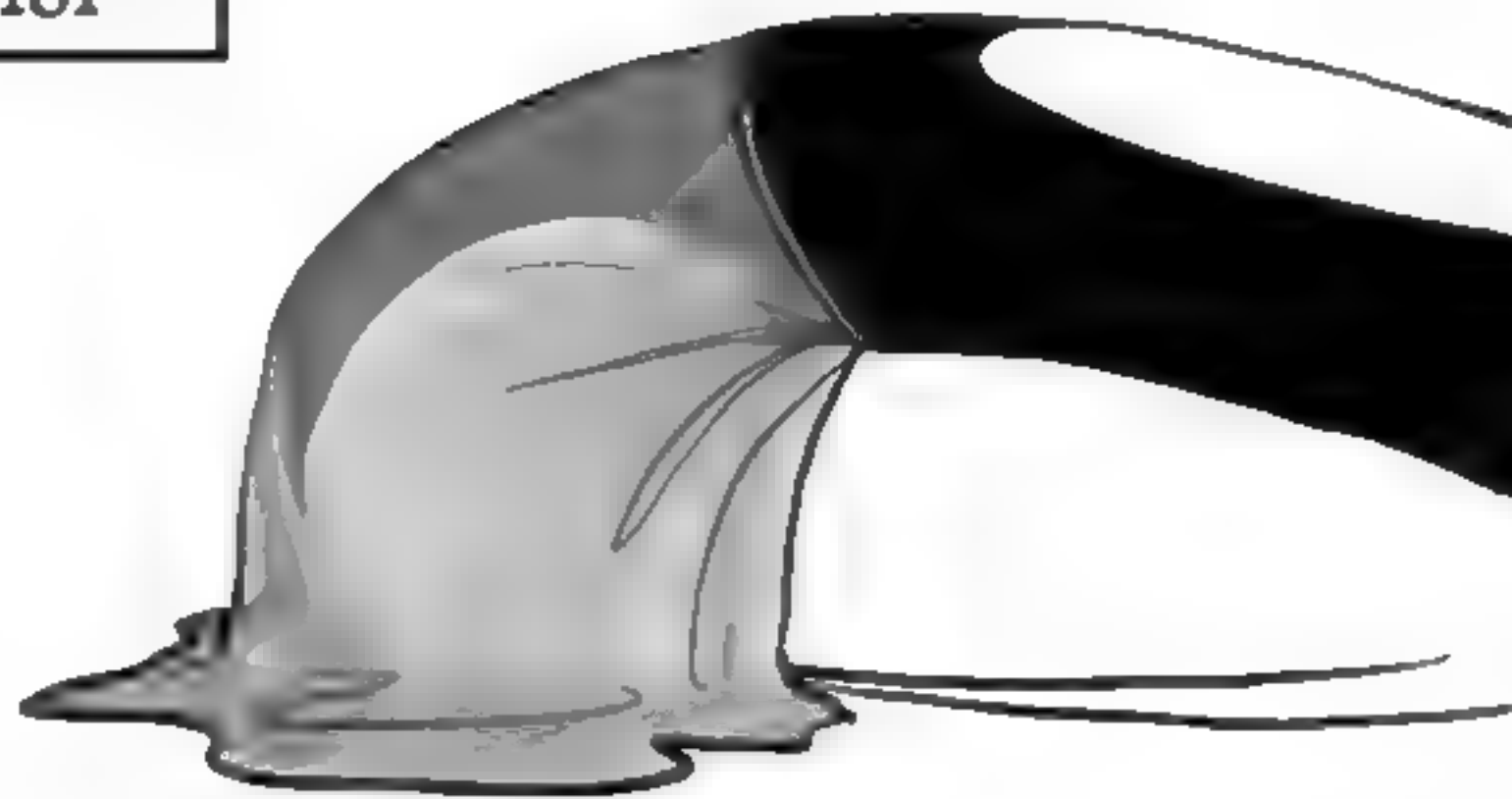


Brooke

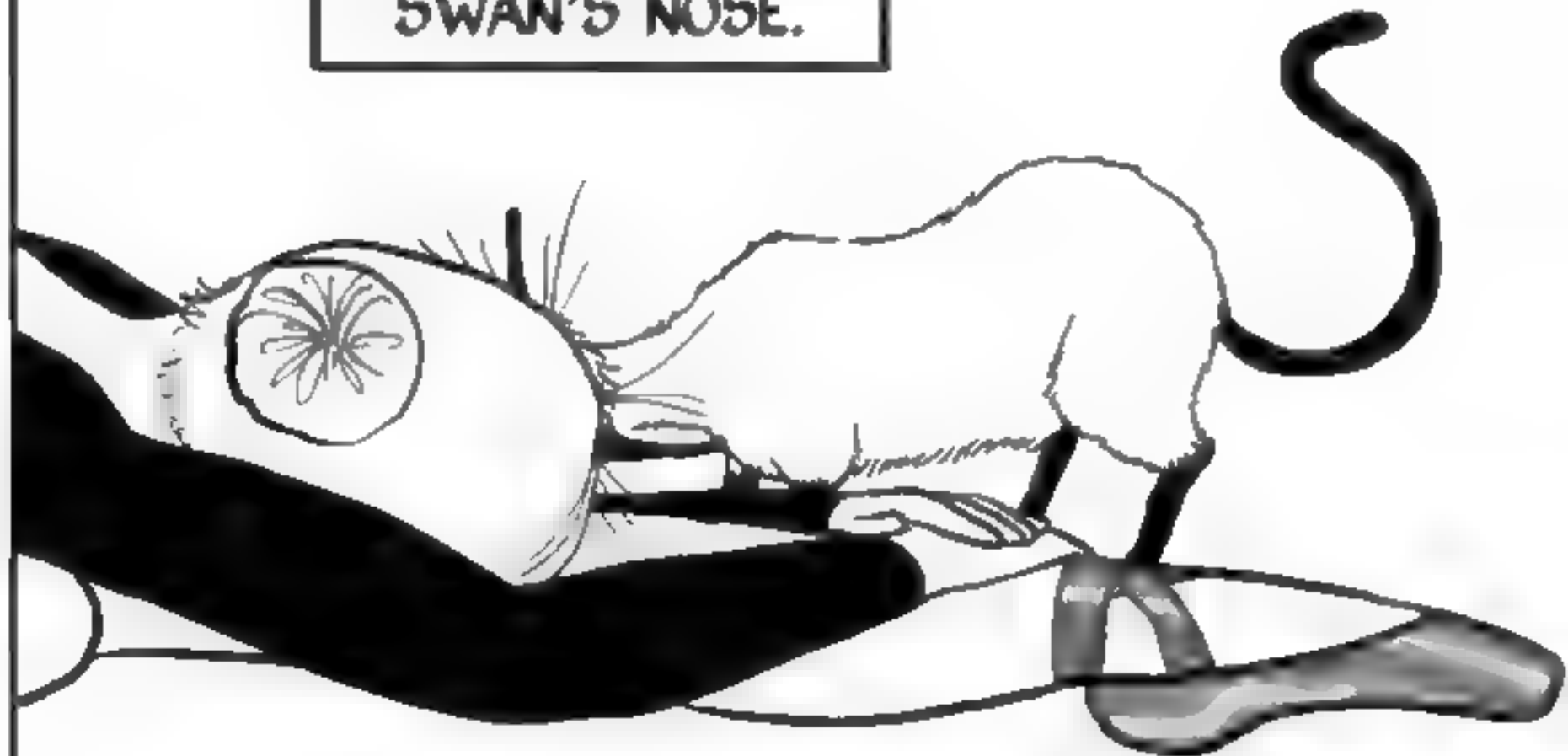


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HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 181

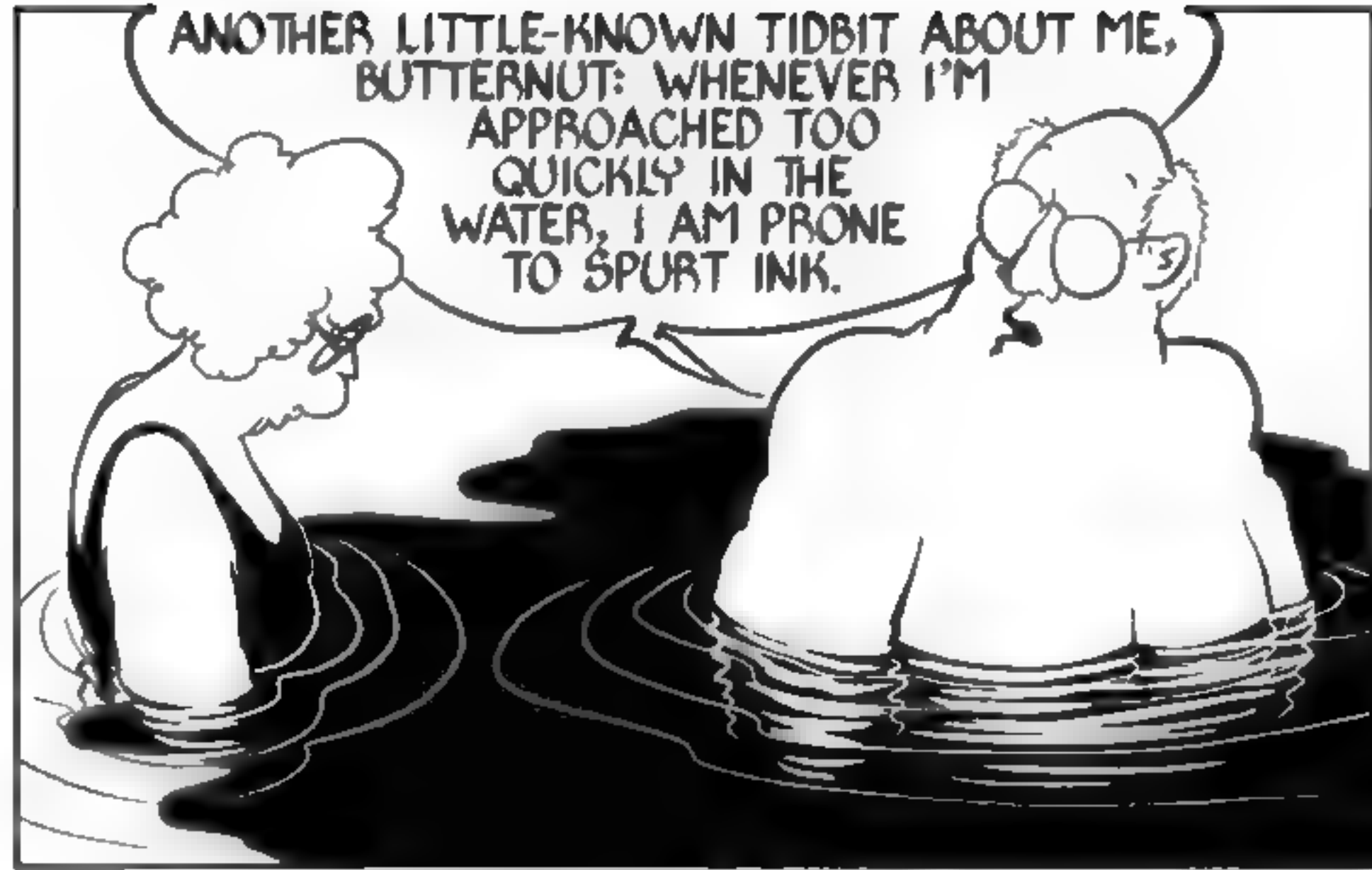


TICKLING A DYING
SWAN'S NOSE.



Brooke







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WHAT
ARE YOU
TWO TALKING
ABOUT?



THE DETAILS
OF A BOWEL
RESECTION
I ONCE OBSERVED.



WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY
WE WERE DISCUSSING
FEELINGS,
EMOTIONS
AND
INTIMACY?

AND
GROSS HER
OUT?



LOOK WHAT I
CONSTRUCTED
FOR YOUR
BIRTHDAY,
MARY...
...A PERFECT,
DETAILED
REPLICA
OF THE
UROGENITAL
APPARATUS.



SHE MUST
HAVE SOMETHING
AGAINST LEGO.

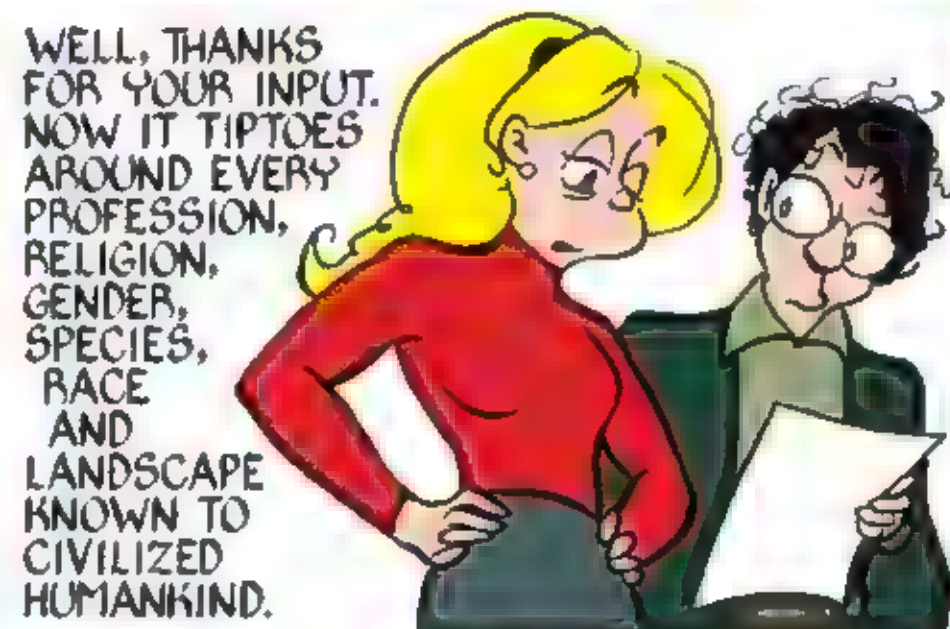
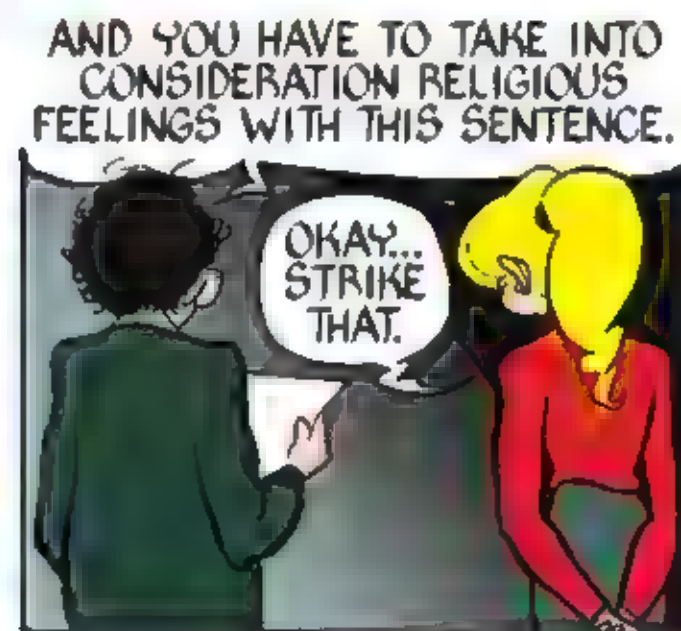
WHO
WOULD HAVE
IMAGINED?



Brooke

9 CHICKWEED LANE

®



I DON'T BELIEVE
IN SIGNS...
...IN EVENTS
OR IMAGES
THAT DIRECT
OUR LIVES.

ANOTHER
REASON
WE'LL NEVER
GET ALONG,
BECAUSE
I DO.



BUT THE IDEA THAT A
SIGN COULD PORTEND
OUR FATES IS
JUST RIDICULOUS.



NOT
AT ALL.
AND I
THINK
WE
SHOULD
NEVER
IGNORE
THEM.

Brooke



I DON'T BELIEVE
IN SIGNS.



I BELIEVE
IN SIGNS.



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WHEN THAT BOY KISSED
YOU LAST NIGHT, I HOPE
YOU KNEW YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO UNLESS YOU
WANTED TO.

OH, I
WANTED
TO.

BUT WHAT I'M SAYING IS,
IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET.
YOU'RE NOT THERE JUST
TO PLEASE...YOUR DESIRES
HAVE TO BE
CONSIDERED
TOO.

NO
PROBLEM.
I HAD THE
DESIRE.

NEVERTHELESS,
YOU SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
SAY TO YOUR-
SELF, "I AM
CERTAIN THIS
IS WHAT
I WANT."

MAN,
WAS I
CERTAIN.

STOP
REASSURING
ME!



I'VE DECIDED TO ESTABLISH
MY PLACE IN MODERN
CULTURE BY COINING A
NEW, PEJORATIVE WORD TO
BE APPLIED TO ANYBODY
WE DON'T LIKE.



THE NEW WORD IS
"STOOFEK." A STOOFEK IS
A NITWIT, ALWAYS OUT
OF TOUCH WITH REALITY,
WHO HABITUALLY BUSIES
HIMSELF WITH...



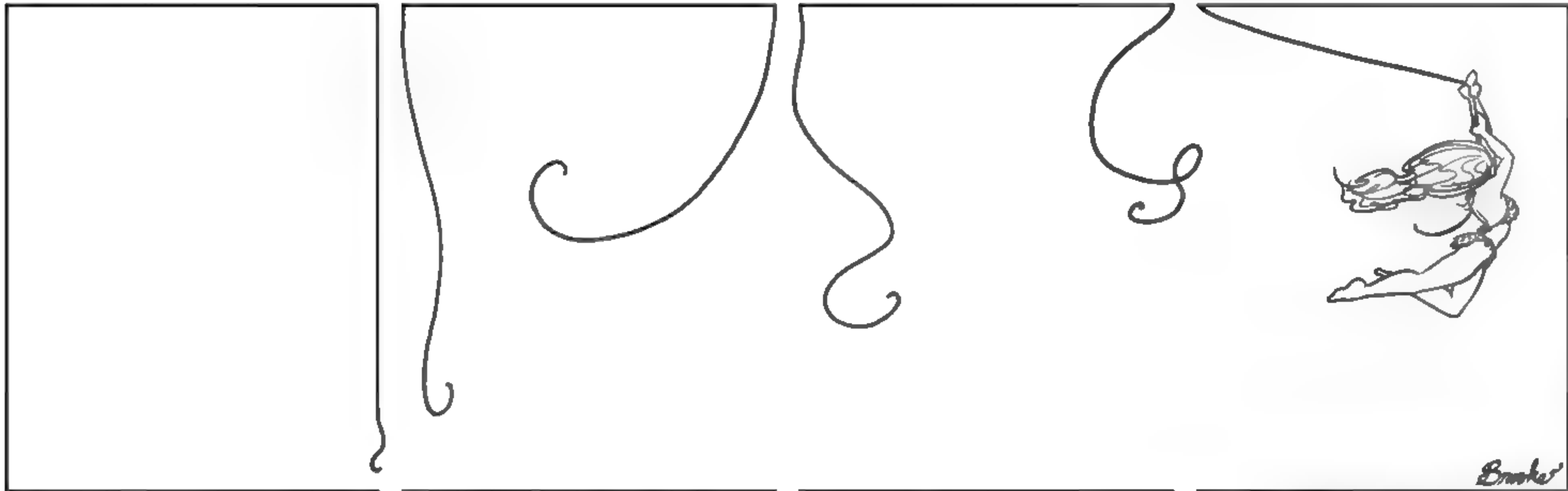
...UM...
.....oh.



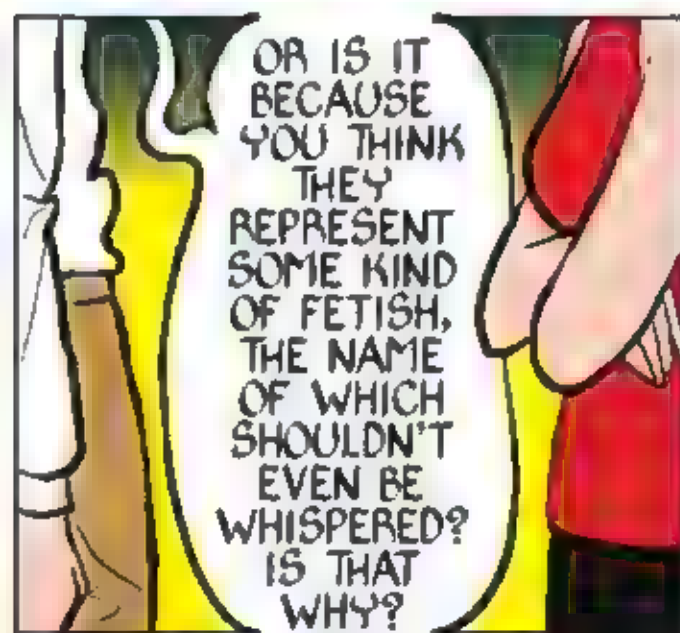
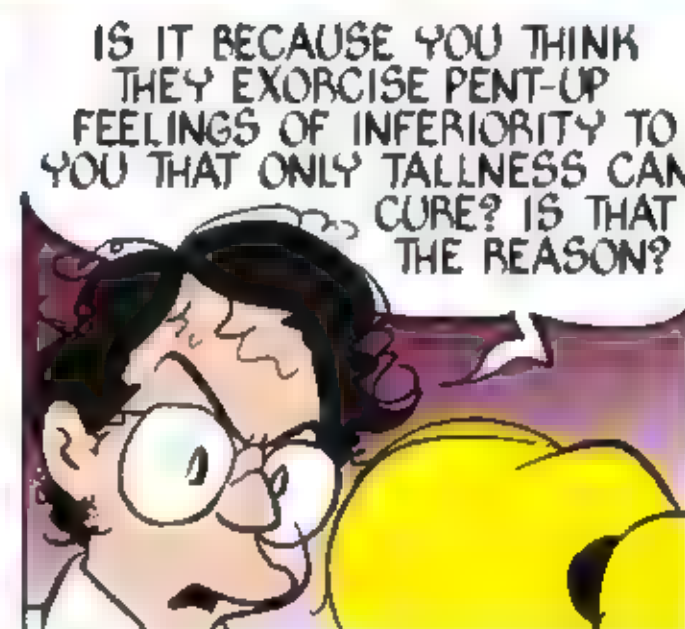
Brooke

...I'm a
stoofek.





Brooke



THE BISHOP HAS JUST
ENTERED THE GATES.
IS EVERYTHING
READY? IS EVERY-
ONE PREPARED?

YES,
SISTER.

Brooker

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4-24

HERE WE GO AGAIN...
...TO BE DESCENDED
UPON BY A
CRAGGY OLD
GEEZER
AND HIS
SECRETARY,
LIKE
ANGELS
OF DEATH,
BUT MORE
SENILE.

AH, SISTER
ARAMUS...
...MAY I
PRESENT
YOU TO...

...FATHER DURLY.
I'M BISHOP
KRETSCHMAR'S
SECRETARY.

YOU WERE
EXPECTING,
I IMAGINE,
SOME
CRAGGY
OLD
GEEZER.

SISTER, IS
THAT AN UN-
SANCTIONED
BLUSH?

FATHER DURLY, THIS IS EDDA BURBER, ONE OF OUR SPECIAL STUDENTS.

"SPECIAL" MEANING GIFTED?

NO, "SPECIAL" MEANING PROMOTING AN ATMOSPHERE OF ANNOYED INCONVENIENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, GIFTED.

OO-OO-OO!... HE'S CUTE, IN A LAST-RITES SORT OF WAY.

SH!

YOU LOOK UNCOMFORTABLE. DID SHE SAY SOMETHING IMPERTINENT?

EDDA SPREADS DISCOMFORT EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH PERTINENCE.

DID YOU
ALWAYS
PLAN TO
BE A
NUN?



NO. IN SCHOOL
I WANTED TO BE
A MARINE
BIOLOGIST.



I ALWAYS FANCIED GOING
INTO MUSICAL THEATRE,
WHICH, IN CERTAIN
RESPECTS, IS WHERE
I SUPPOSE I WENT.



IT'S NOT AT ALL
HOW WE FORESAW
OUR
FUTURES.



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SOMETIMES
GLIMPING THE
FUTURE IS NOT ALL
IT'S CRACKED UP
TO BE.





I WORE MAKEUP WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL...MAINLY AS AN ALLOREMENT FOR BOYS. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT IN YEARS.

I'LL BET YOU WERE A KNOCK-OUT IN HIGH SCHOOL.

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Brooke

I'M SORRY, WERE YOU THINKING I WAS PATRONIZING YOU?

I WAS THINKING YOU'D WIN YOUR BET.

MOM, WHAT DOES
A WOMAN LOOK LIKE
WHEN SHE'S IN
LOVE?

ARE THERE
TELLTALE
SIGNS?

SHE TENDS TO HAVE A
SMILE SHE CAN'T FIGHT OFF
HER FACE, HER EYES GAZE
BUT HER FOCUS IS ELSE-
WHERE, AND THERE'S A KIND
OF AIR CUSHION BENEATH
HER STEP. ...WHY?
IS SOMETHING
GOING ON?

OH, NO...
NOTHING
REALLY.

I PROBABLY
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
DESCRIBED
IT AS
"NOTHING
REALLY."



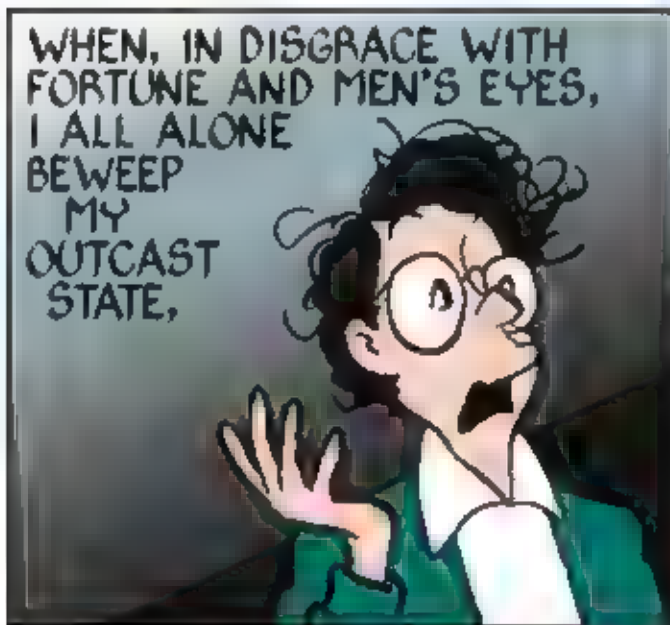
Brooke

9 CHICKWEED LANE

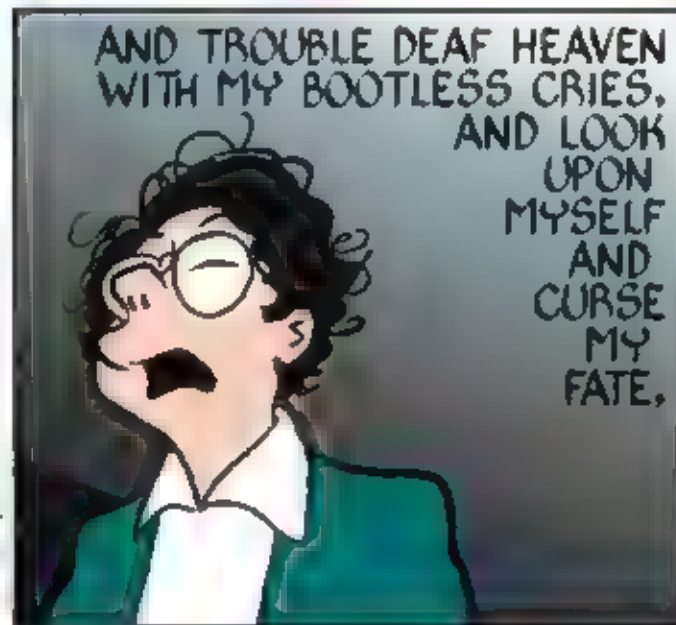
UH-ONE...

UH-TWO...

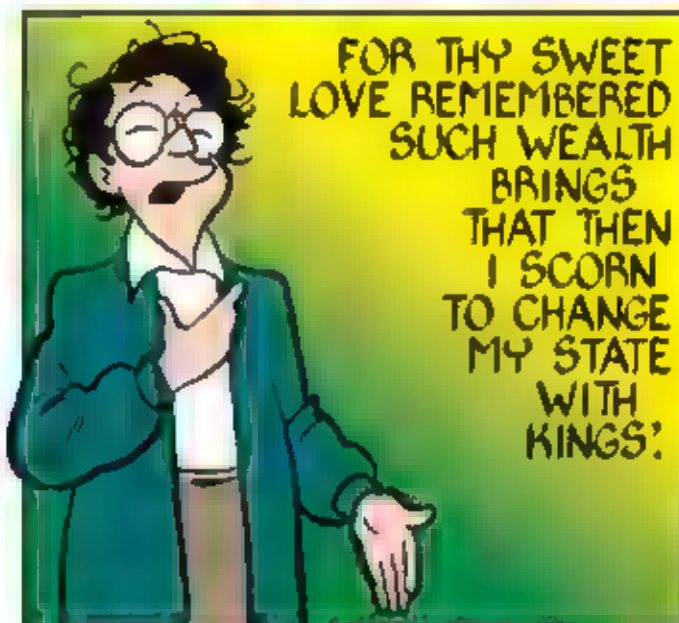
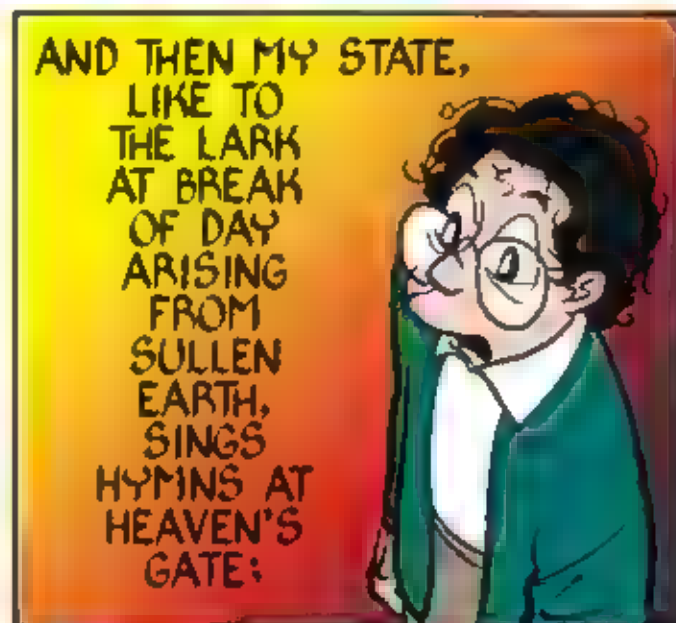
UH-ONE,
TWO,
THREE,
FOUR...



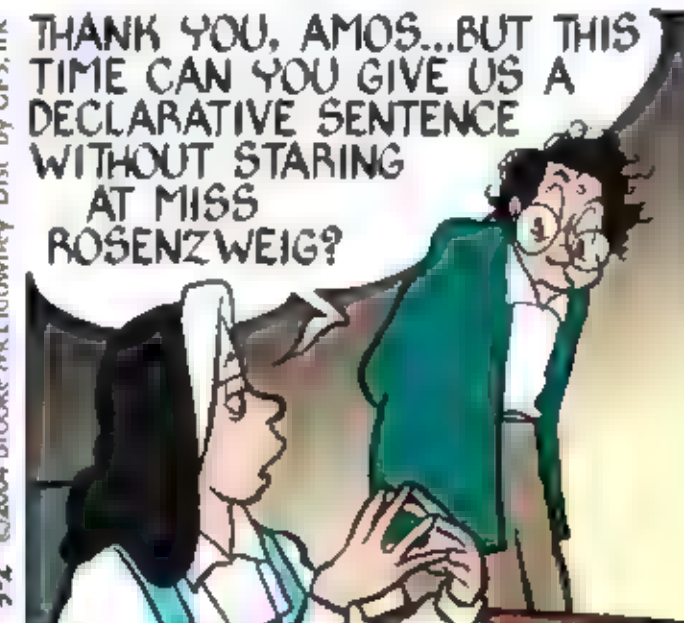
Shakespeare: Sonnet No. 29



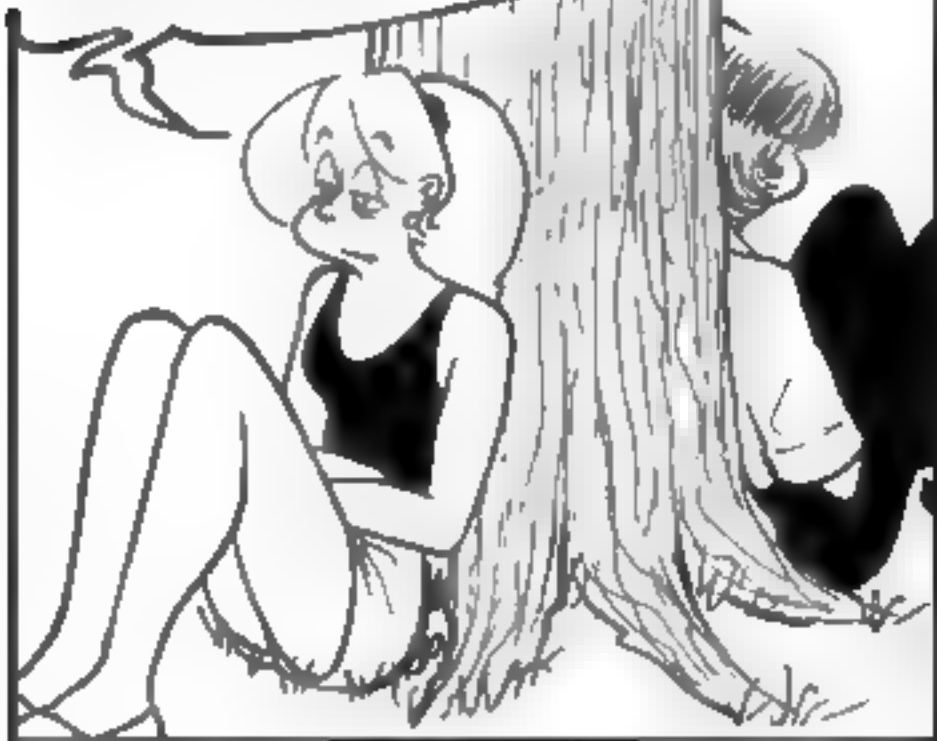
Brooke



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BISHOP KRETSCHMAR HAS BEEN STALKING AROUND SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS WITH SISTER CALIGULA IN HIS WAKE. WE CALL HIM "THE INSPECTOR GENERAL."



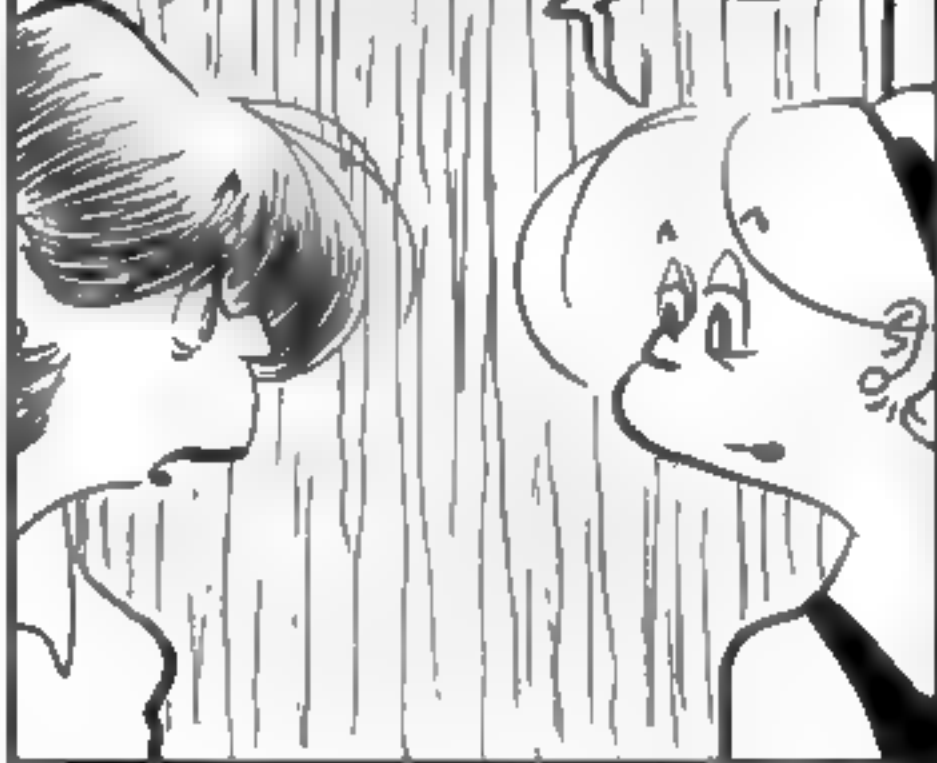
WHAT DOES HIS SECRETARY DO DURING ALL THIS?

WE CALL HIM "SISTER ARAMUS' BOYFRIEND."



YES, BUT WHAT DOES HE DO?

I THINK I JUST ANSWERED THAT QUESTION.



"I GUESS I WAS TRYING TO PRETEND YOU HADN'T."



EVER SINCE I WAS ORDAINED,
I'VE BEEN RUSHING ALONG
AFTER ONE PANJANDRUM OR
ANOTHER...DOING AS BIDDEN.
SOMETIMES IT'S NICE JUST

TO SIT
BACK
AND CHAT
WITH A
FRIEND.

I AGREE.



WHAT
COLOR
IS YOUR
HAIR?

...RED.

WHY DID
I ASK THAT
QUESTION?

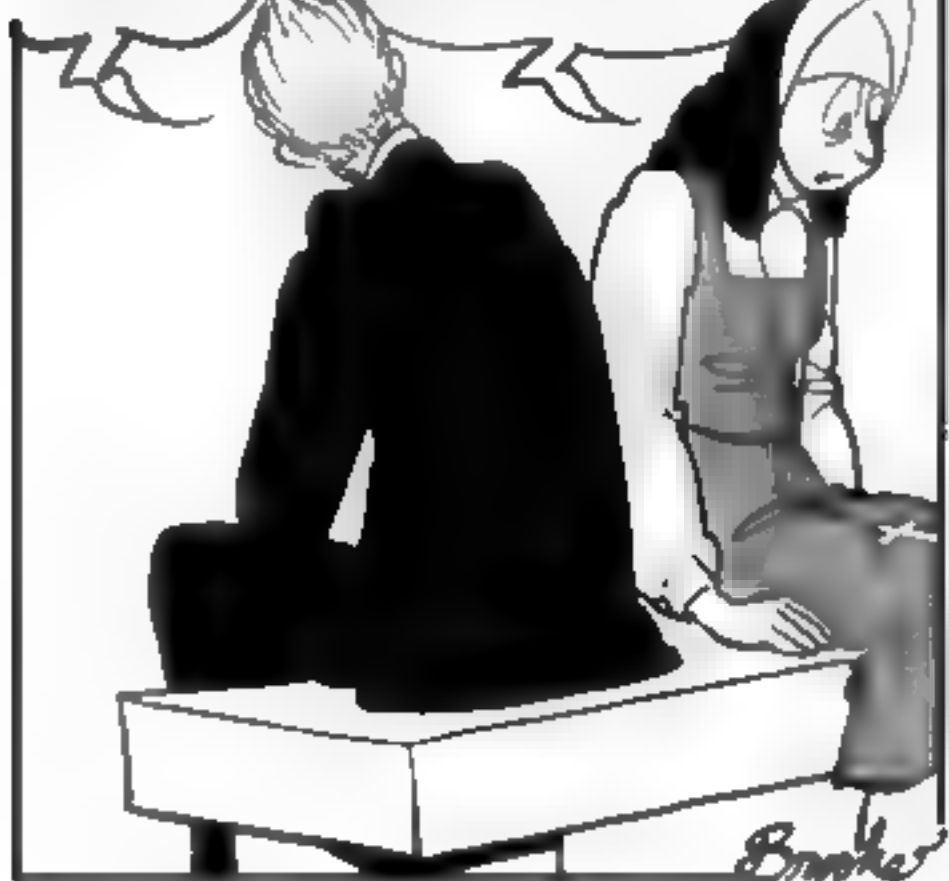
WHY DID I
ANSWER?

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YOU SEEM VERY FAR AWAY.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE COMMANDMENTS, AND WHY THEY'RE SO NAMED.



IT'S BECAUSE THEY TEST OUR RESOLVE, OUR SOULS. OTHERWISE, THEY WOULDN'T BE COMMANDMENTS... THEY'D BE CALLED "THE TEN SUGGESTIONS."



FATHER DURLY, I HAVE TO CONFESS I LIED TO YOU ABOUT THE COLOR OF MY HAIR...BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, I REALIZED I'D NEVER BREAK MY VOW WITH GOD.



5-6 M. Elwyn Dist. by UFS, Inc.

I COULDN'T HAVE LIED HAD I THOUGHT YOU EVER HAD A CHANCE OF SEEING IT.



BISHOP KRETSCHMAR IS
LEAVING. I HAVE TO GO.
BUT I HAVE SOMETHING I
NEED TO SAY FIRST, AND
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO
SAY IT.



Brooke



5-7 ©2004 Brooke McElderry Dwyer, F.S.

HE KNEW
HOW TO SAY IT,
AFTER ALL.



SISTER ARAMUS, I FEAR
THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE
BEEN AN IMPOSITION
ON YOU...HAVING
TO SPEND SO
MUCH
TIME
WITH
FATHER
DURLY.



5-6

© 2004 by Mike McTavish

I HOPE THAT HE
DIDN'T MAKE YOU
FEEL TORN FROM
YOUR DUTIES
AND
OBLIGATIONS.



FATHER DURLY NEVER
WOULD HAVE
INTENTIONALLY
DONE THAT...
...HE ALWAYS
RESPECTED MY
COMMITMENTS.



I'M GLAD
TO HEAR IT.

DO YOU HAVE
A TISSUE,
SISTER?

AS
FATE
WOULD
HAVE
IT,
I'VE
BROUGHT
SEVERAL.



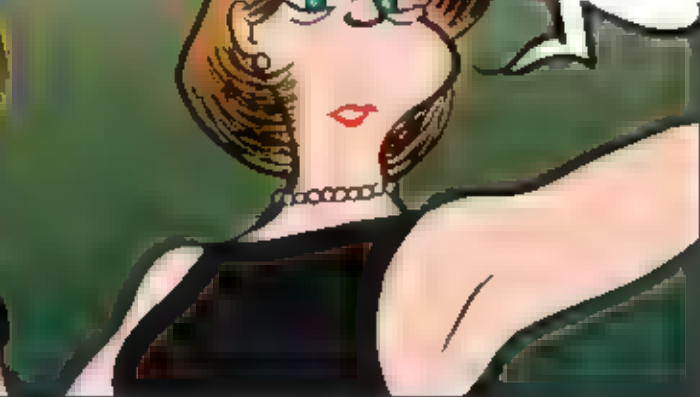
Brooks



I'M READY FOR THE PARTY...ARE YOU?



I'VE GOT THE HAND-
WARMER.
...LET'S GO.



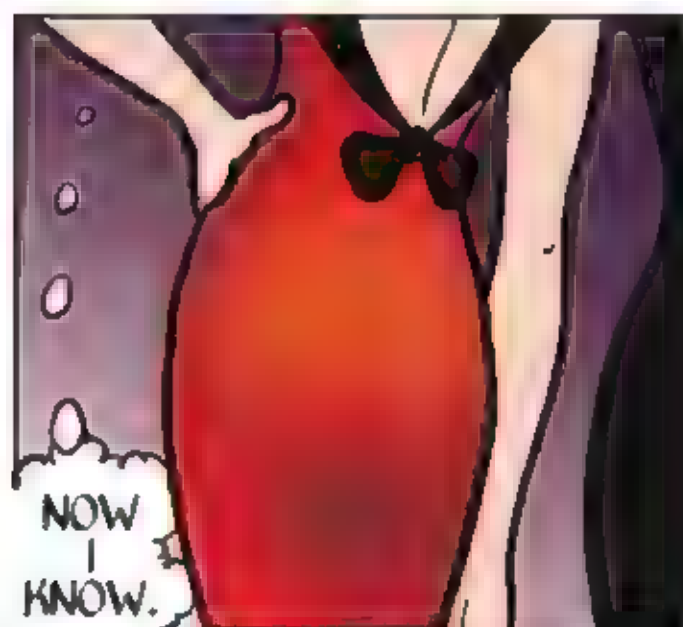
I USED
TO WATCH,
PERPLEXED,
MOVIE STARS
AND MODELS
HOW THEY
COULD ADOPT
SUCH UNSTABLE
POSES...

TO JUST
SHOW OFF
THEIR GORGEOUS
GOWNS.

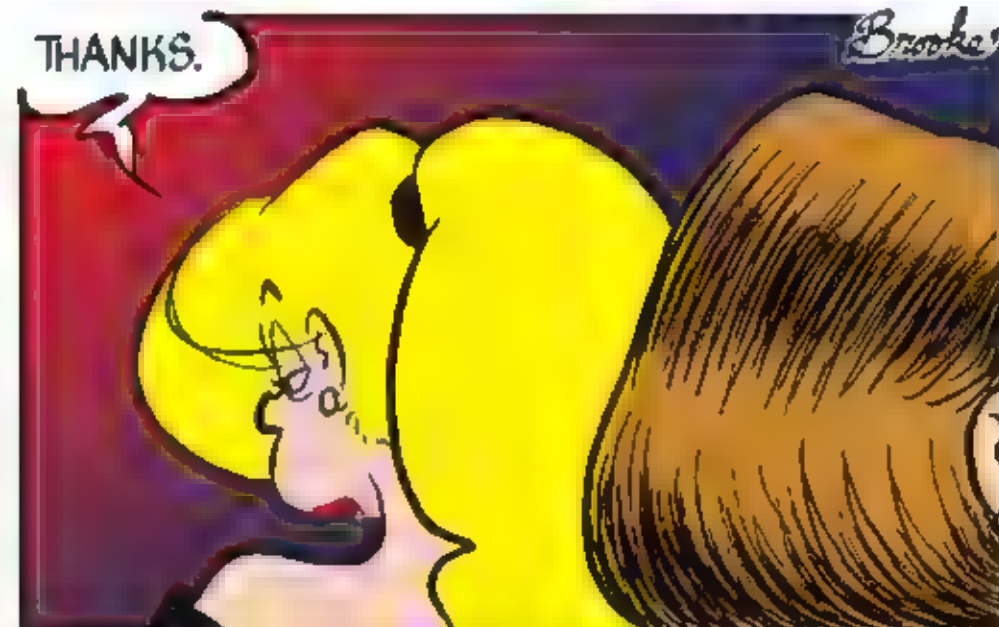


THEIR
CENTERS OF
GRAVITY
WERE SO
COMPLETELY
DEFIANT
IN WILDED
UNIVERSAL
PHYSICAL
LAW...

...SET
THEY
DIDN'T
TOPPLE
OVER.
...WHAT
POWER.
I'D
WONDER,
DID THEY
DRAW
ON?

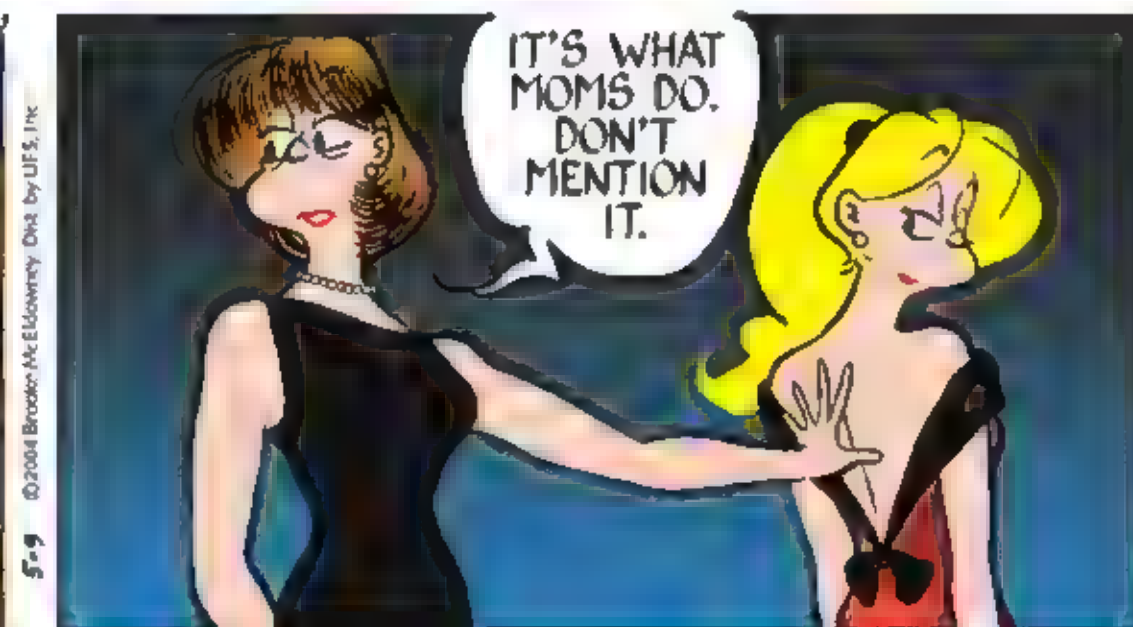


NOW
I
KNOW.



THANKS.

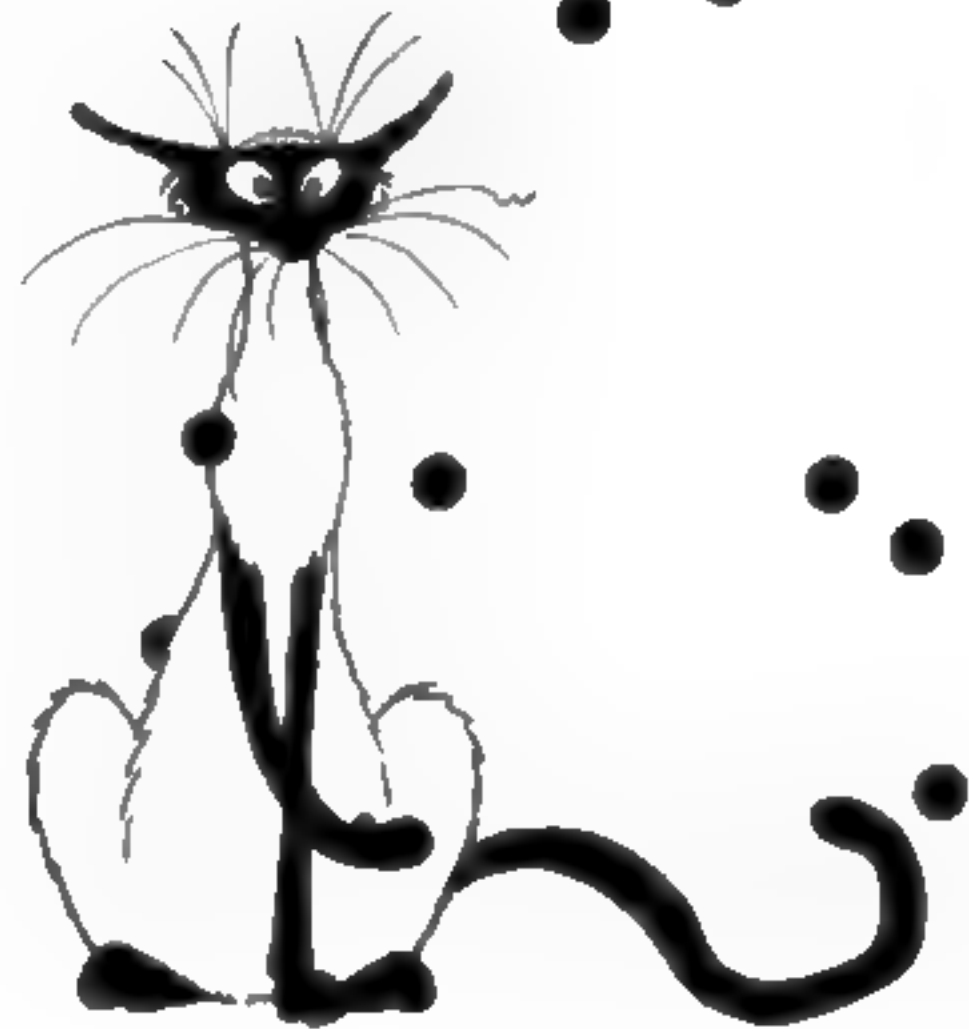
Broderick

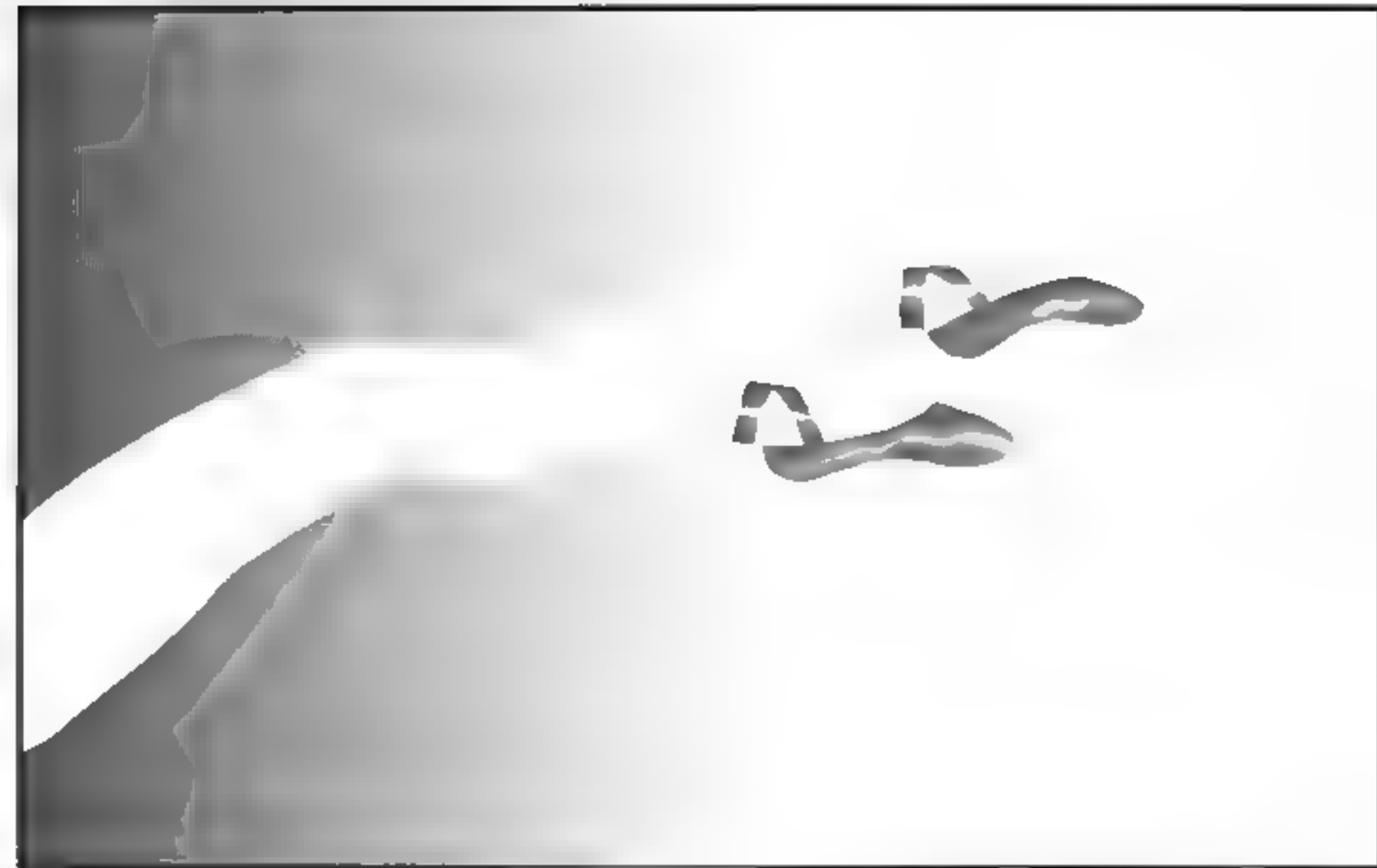
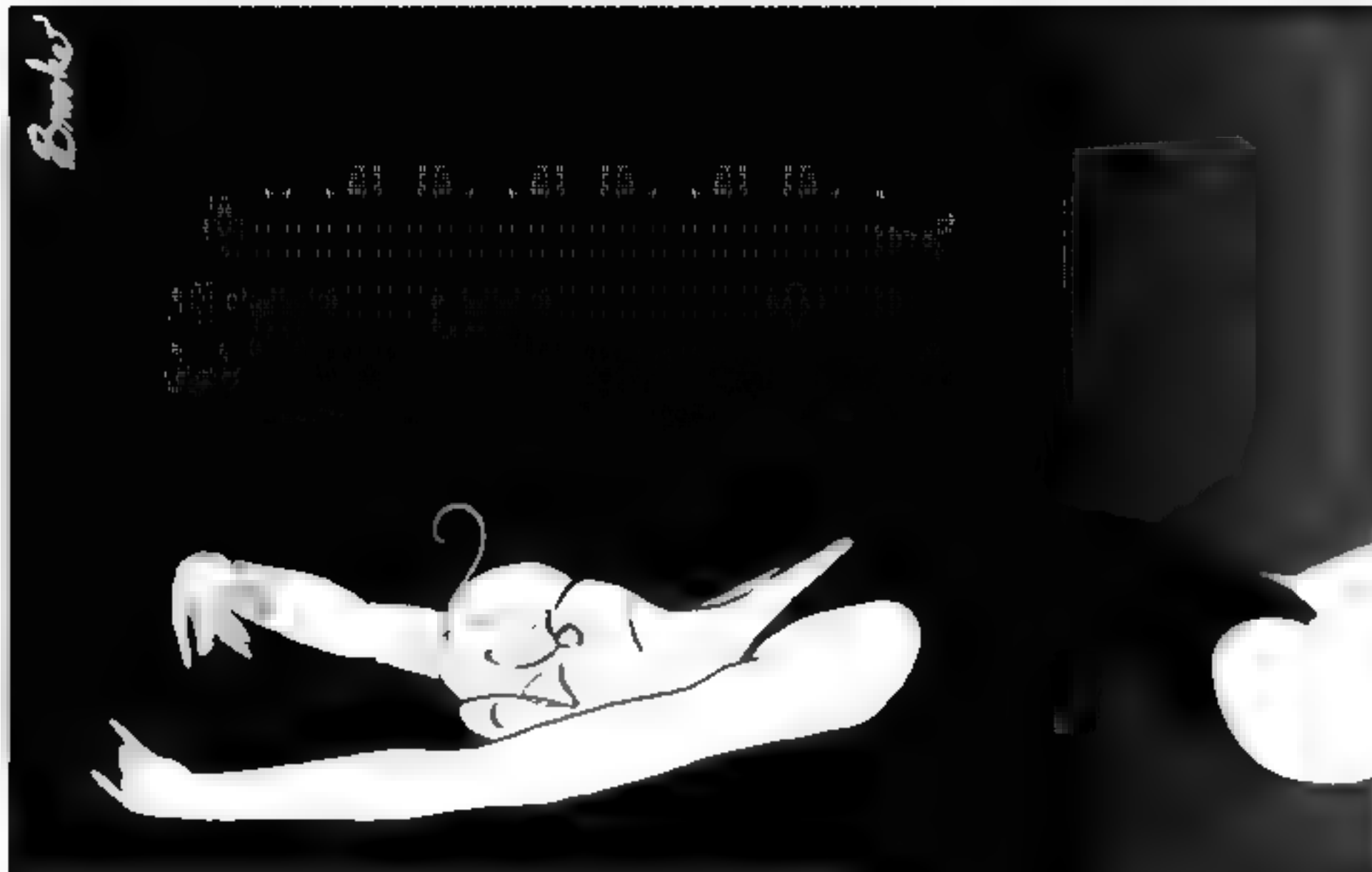


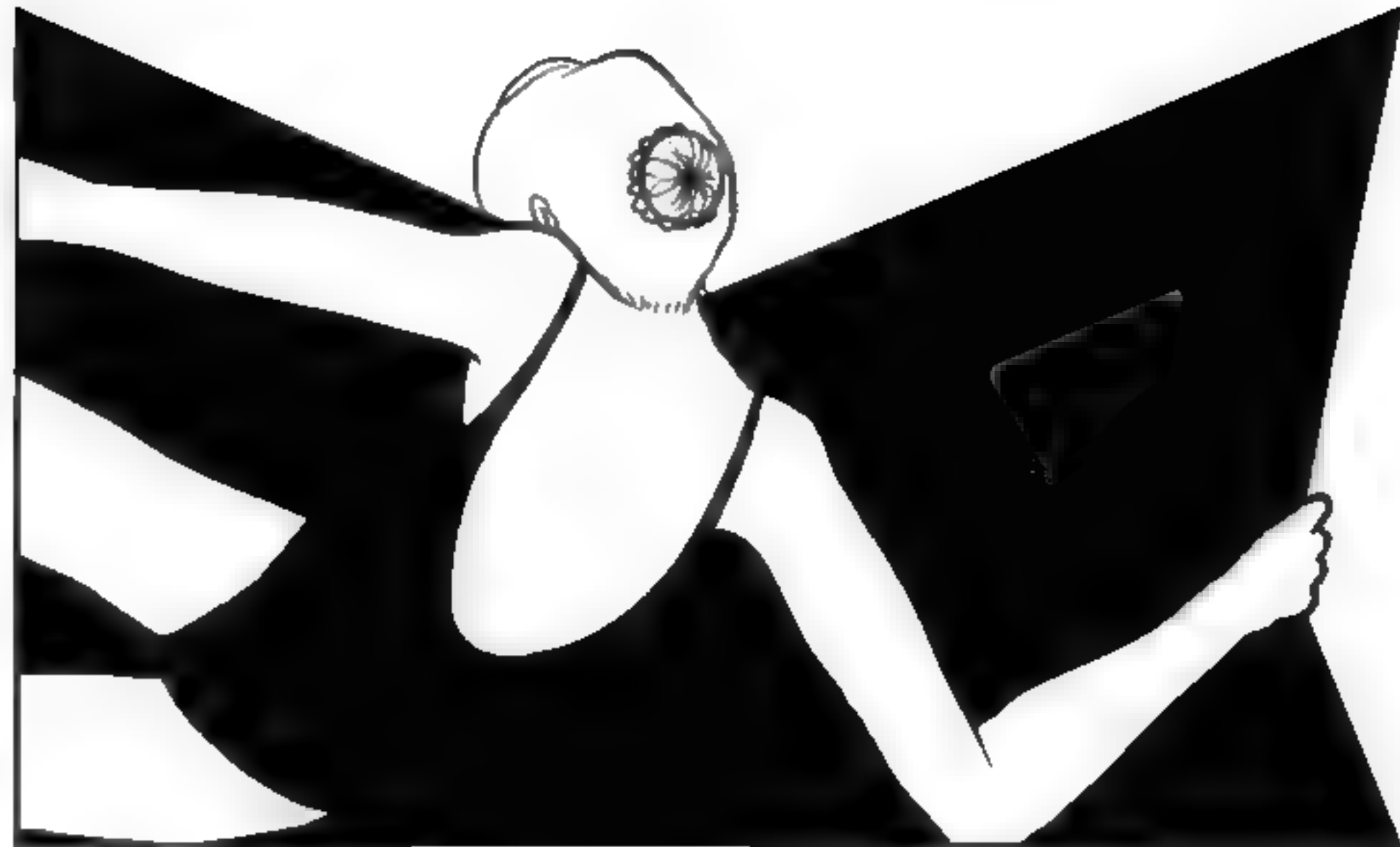
IT'S WHAT
MOMS DO.
DON'T
MENTION
IT.



Brooke







GEE, DIVOT, AT LAST COUNT,
FLORIDA HOSTED 16 GREY-
HOUND TRACKS...MORE THAN
A THIRD OF THE TRACKS IN
THE UNITED STATES...WHERE
PARASITE-RIDDEN DOGS ARE
CAGED, FED ROTTEN FOOD
AND RACED TO EXHAUSTION.
...AT WHICH POINT, THEY'RE
EXTERMINATED.



YES...BUT THAT MUST
BE BALANCED WITH THE
ENTERTAINMENT FACTOR...
...i.e., THE UNLIMITED
AVAILABILITY OF
GAMBLING AND BEER.



COME TO FLORIDA, WHERE
EVERY VISITOR GETS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT
THE STATE'S TOURIST
INDUSTRY VIA BARBARIC
ANIMAL ABUSE, GAMBLING
NEUROSIS AND COUNTLESS
D.U.I.
CONVIC-
TIONS.

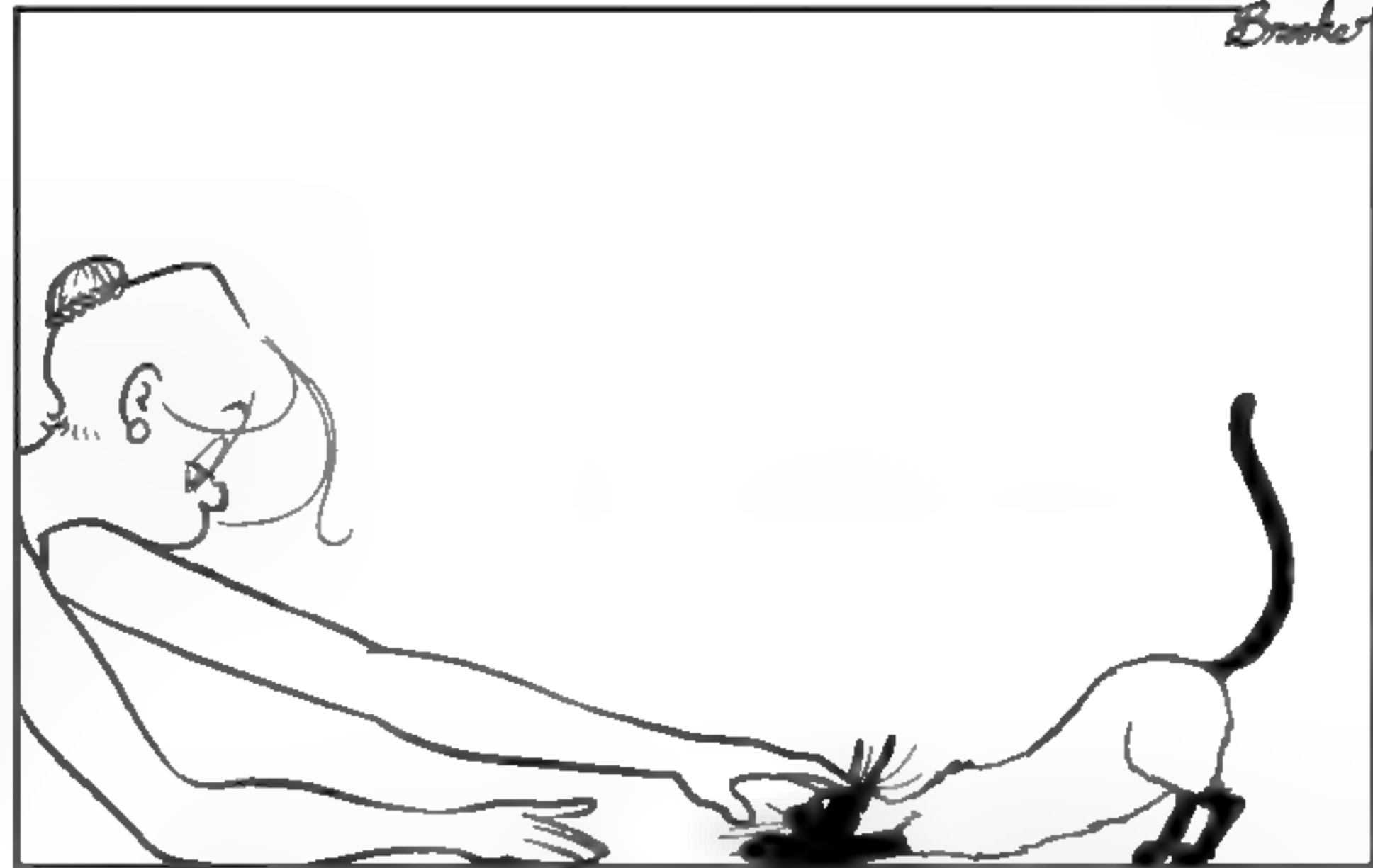
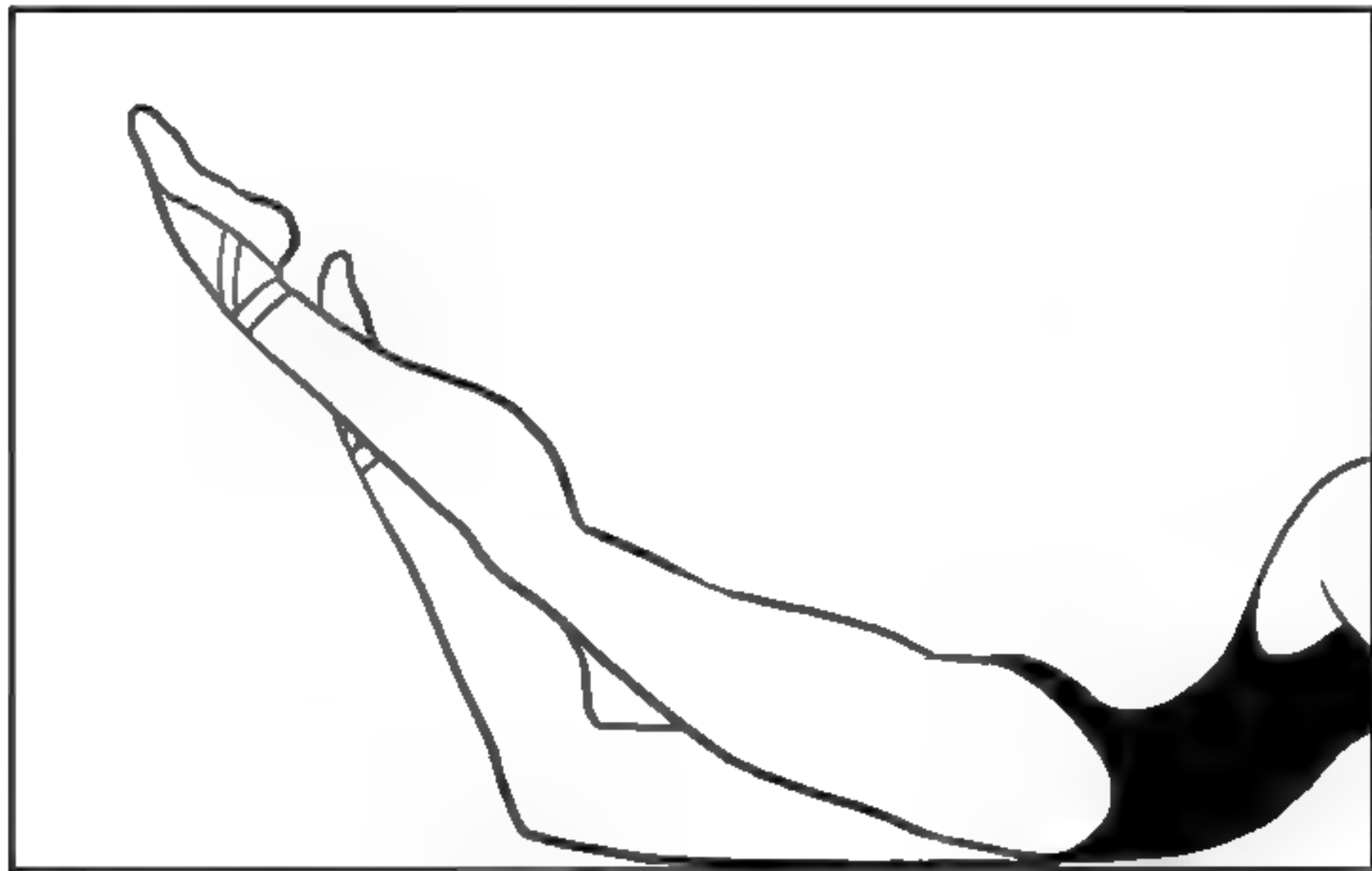


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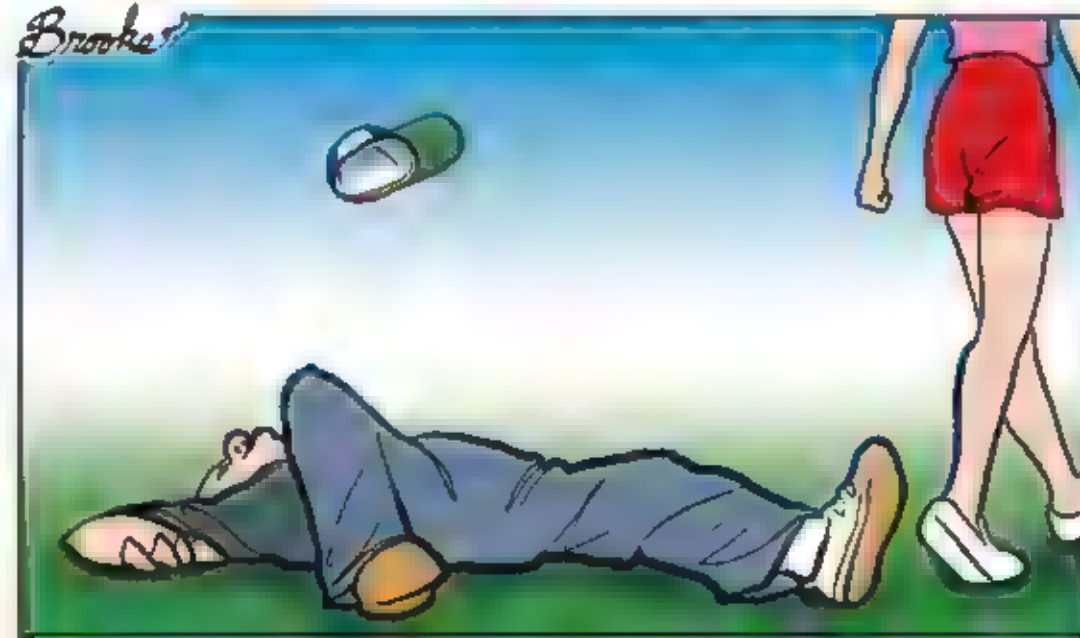
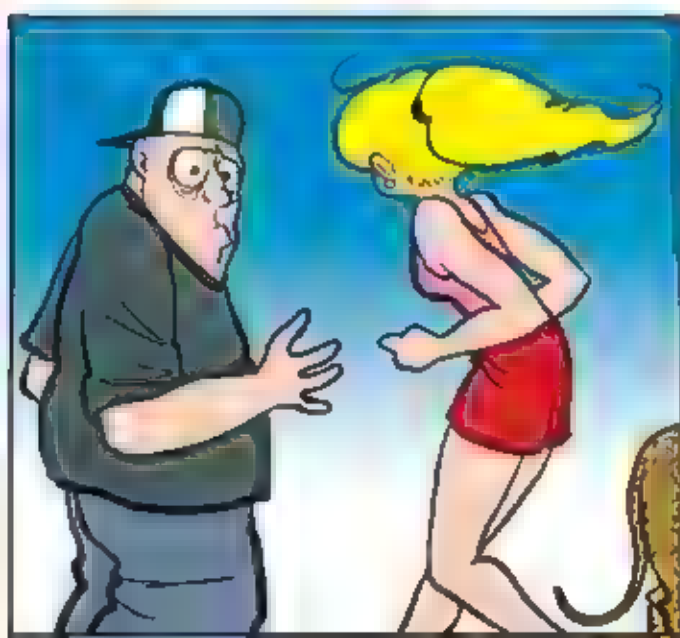
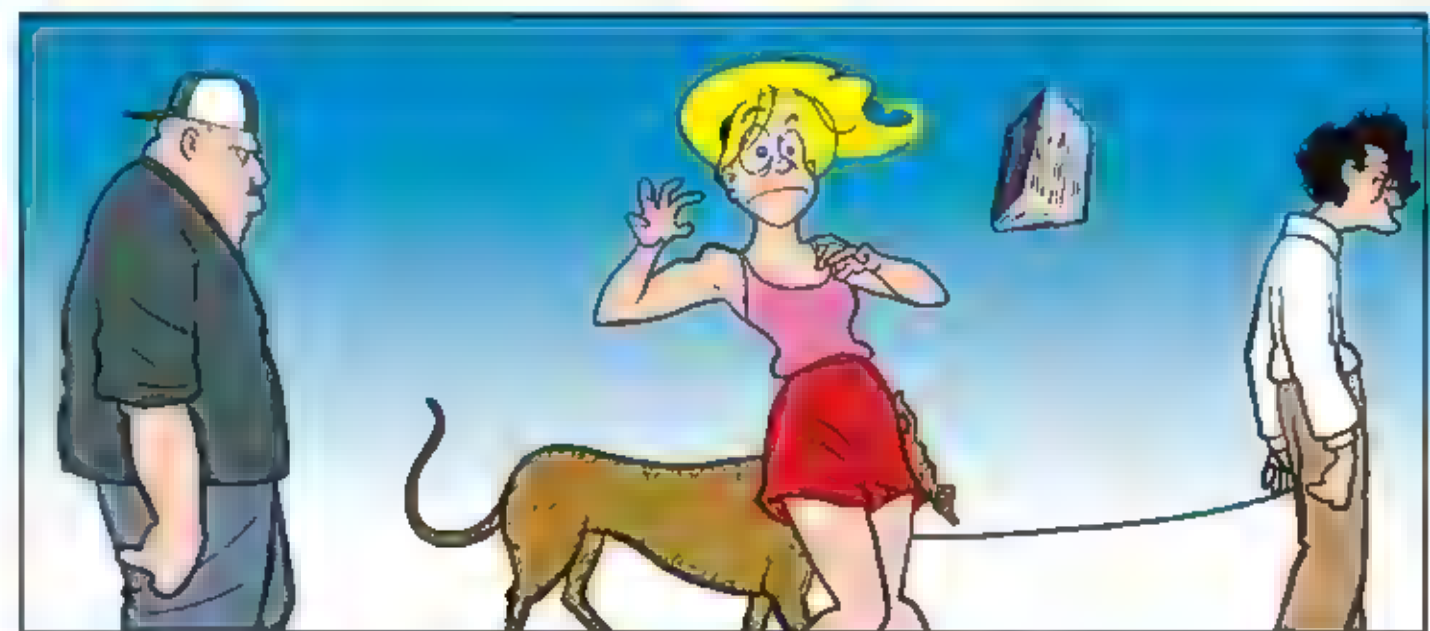
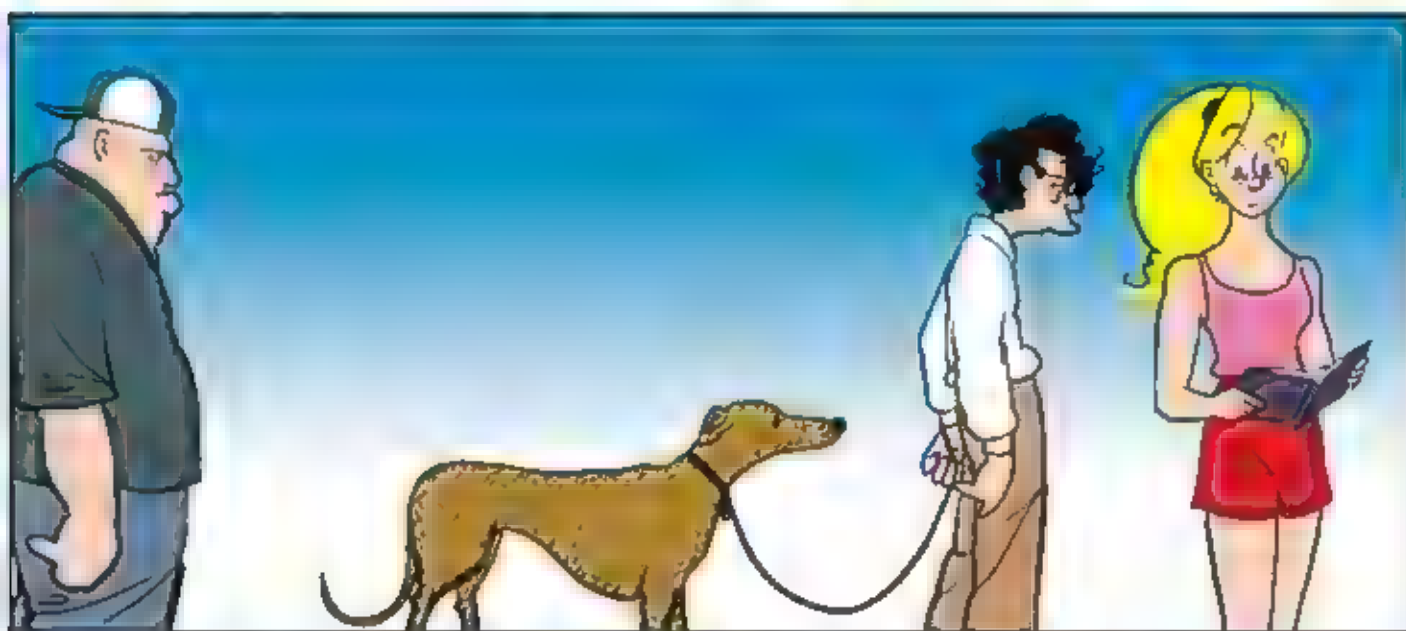
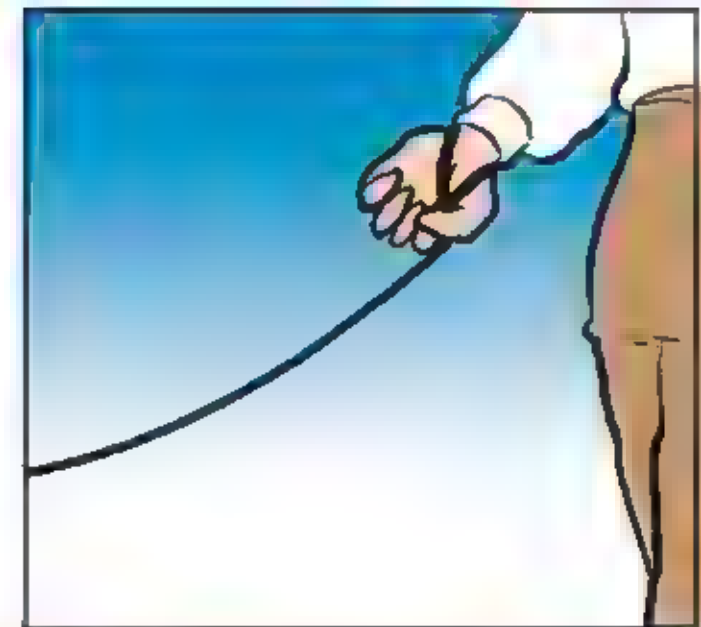
Brooke

MEMORIES
LIKE THAT JUST
DON'T GROW
ON TREES.





Brooke





I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT
THIS SWIMSUIT, BUT THE
LOOK BOTHERS ME A
LITTLE.



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YOU'D PREFER
TO SEE IT IN A
DIFFERENT
COLOR?



NO...I'D PREFER
TO SEE IT
MODELED BY
SOMEONE
WHOSE
HEAD,
LEGS AND
ARMS
HAVEN'T
BEEN
HACKED
OFF.

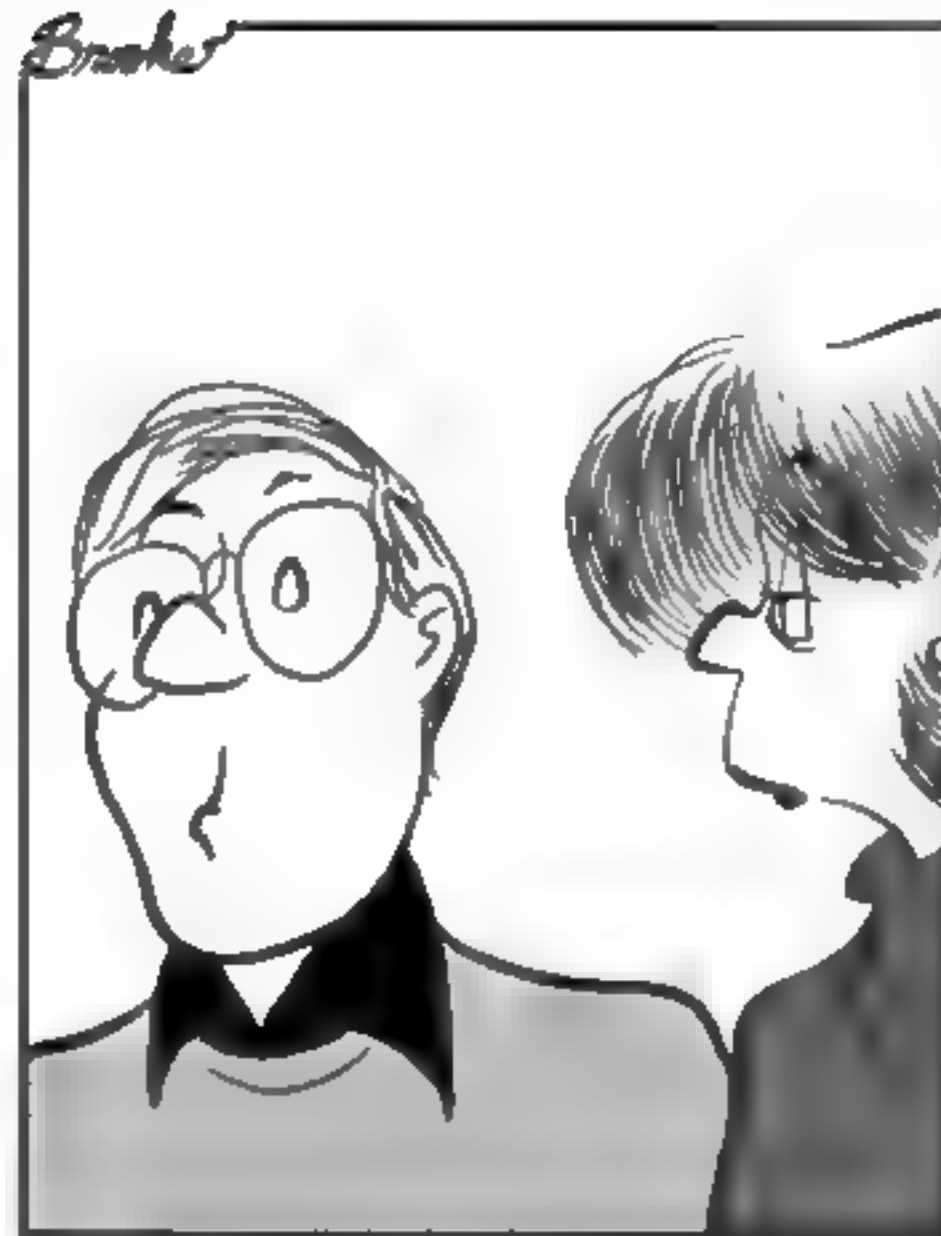


Brooke

WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT
WOMEN'S INTIMATE APPAREL
IS THAT IT WEIGHS LESS
THAN THE CASH REQUIRED
TO PURCHASE IT...
...CAN YOU IMAGINE
THAT?



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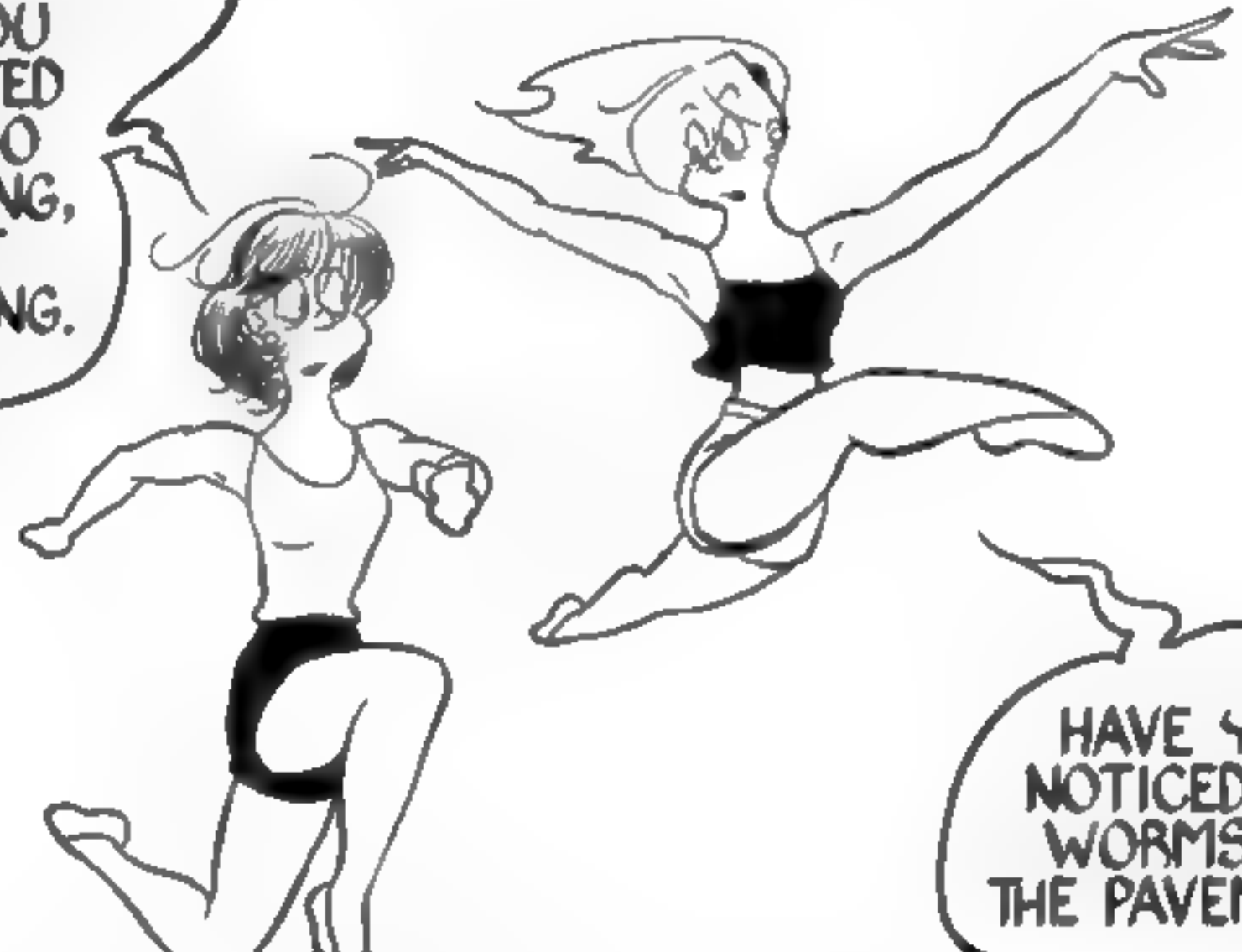




5-20 8/2004 by Mike McKelvey D & B by JES I & C

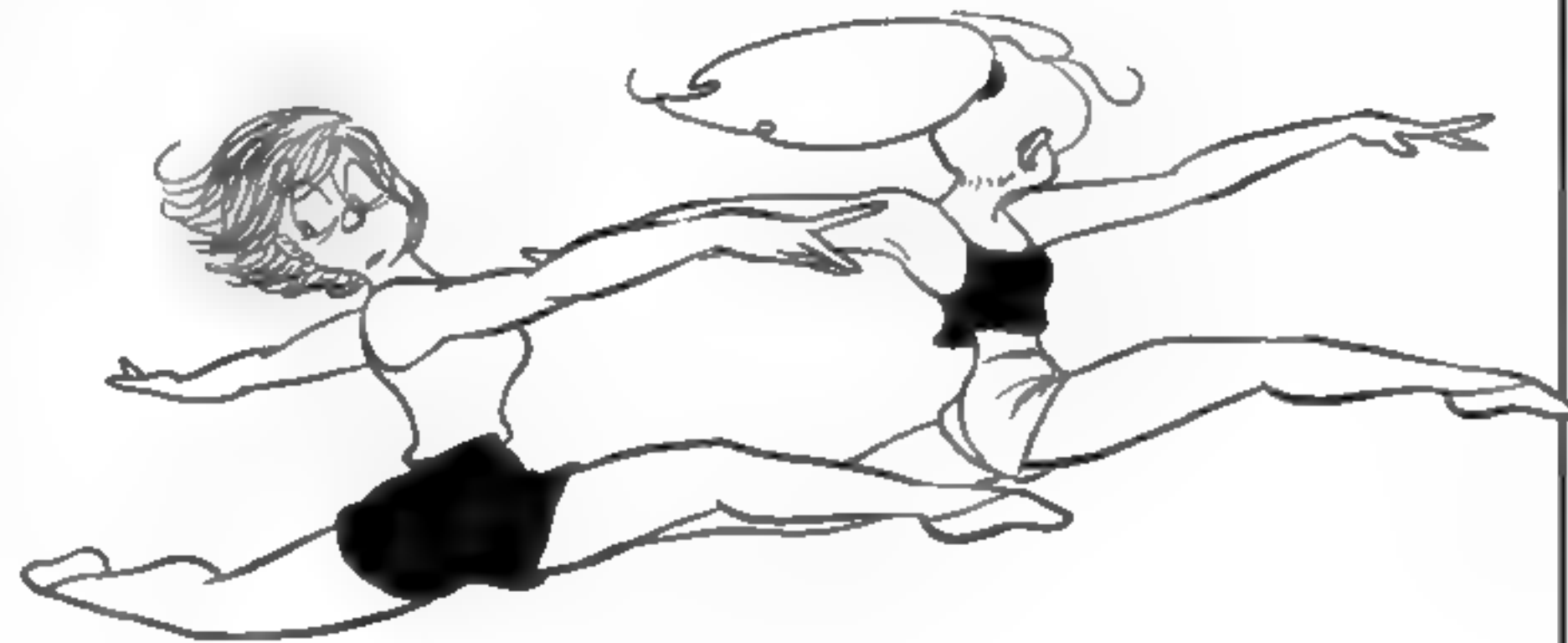


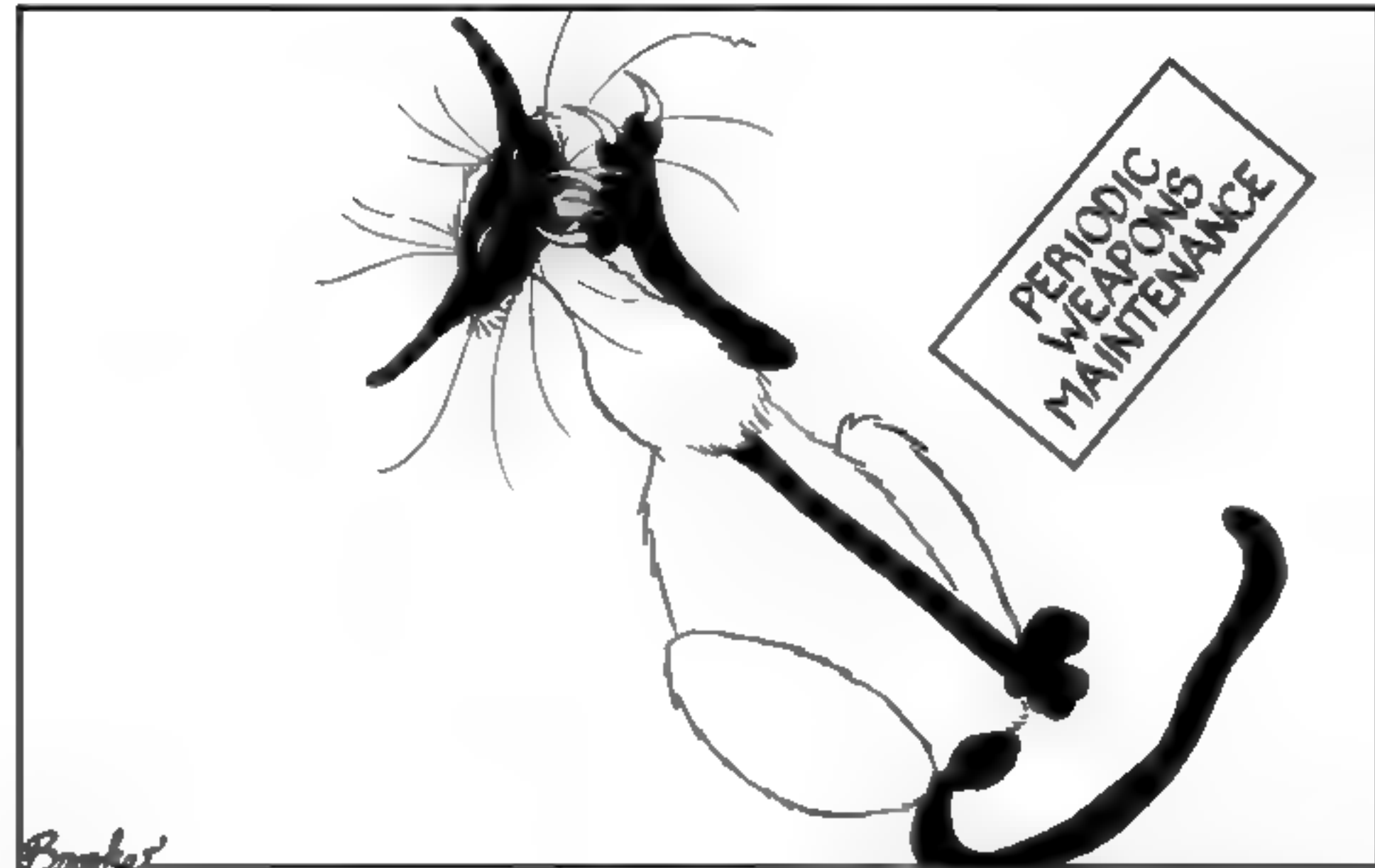
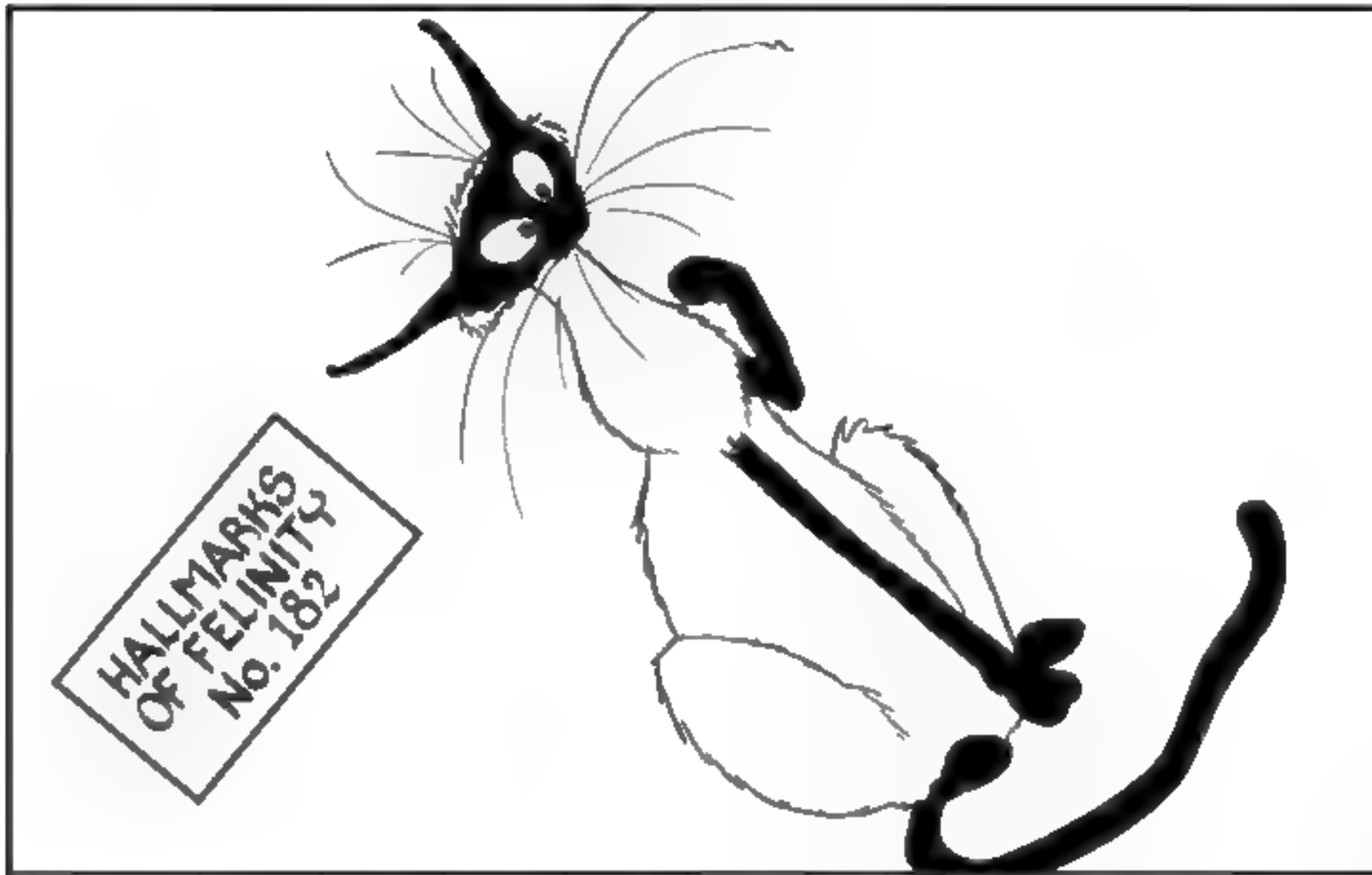
I ASKED YOU
IF YOU
WANTED
TO GO
JOGGING,
NOT
JETE-ING.



HAVE YOU
NOTICED THE
WORMS ON
THE PAVEMENT?

Brooke





9 CHICKWEED LANE

®

WHERE
SHOULD I BEGIN,
DOCTOR?...
WITH MY
OBSESSIONS?

OH, LET'S THROW
CARE TO THE
WIND AND
START WITH
YOUR COM-
PULSIONS.

EVEN THOUGH I AM A
PSYCHOTHERAPIST, I FIND
I HAVE AVOIDED AND DENIED
A DEEP-SEATED PREJUDICE
IN MY OWN PERSONALITY.

SUBCONSCIOUSLY,
I BELIEVE I LOOK FOR
MEN WHO ARE TALL,
TO THE EXCLUSION
OF ALL OTHER
POSSIBILITIES.

IT IS ONLY NATURAL
FOR A TALL,
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN
TO SEEK
LOVE IN
A TALL
MAN.
DR. NEUMANN.

YES, BUT I'M OBSESSED...
AND IT SHAMES ME TO CONFESS
THAT I REGARD SHORT MEN
AS REPUGNANT AND
INFERIOR.

LET'S TRY TO
DISPEL THAT
NOTION
ON OUR
NEXT
VISIT.

CLUES FOR THE
BODY-LANGUAGE
DYSLEXIC



A... AS IS MY WONT, I LOOKED BEYOND THE
BLEMISHES AND BAD BREATH, AND, TO MY
HORROR, GLIMPSED THE REAL YOU.

B... I ALWAYS SIT THIS WAY WHEN I DETECT
POLLUTANT IN THE GENE POOL.

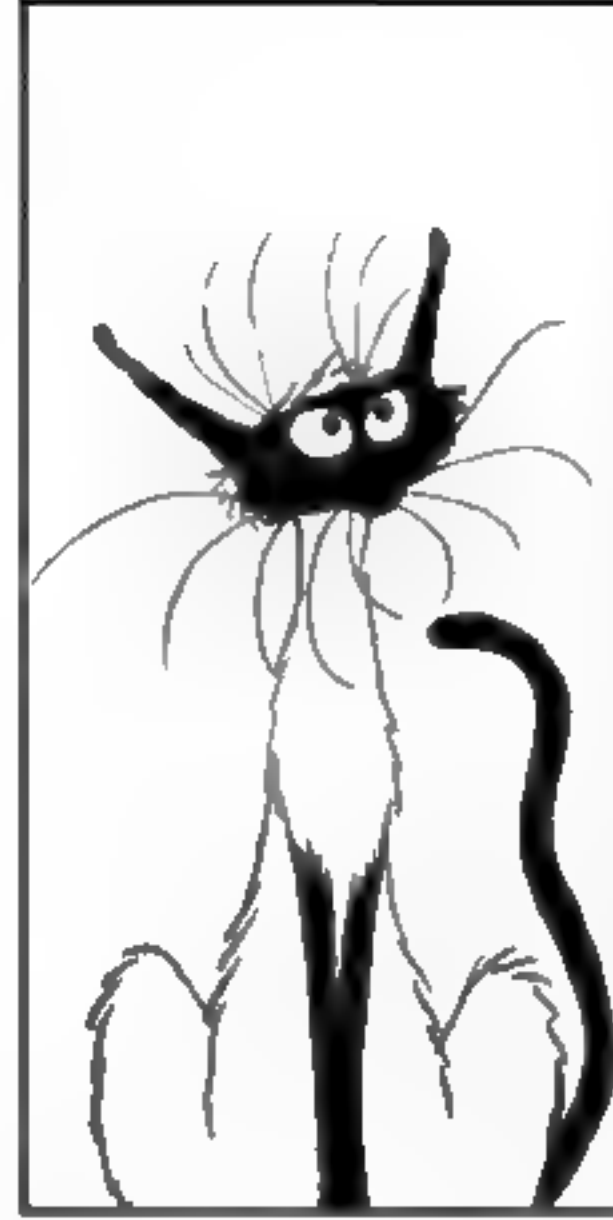
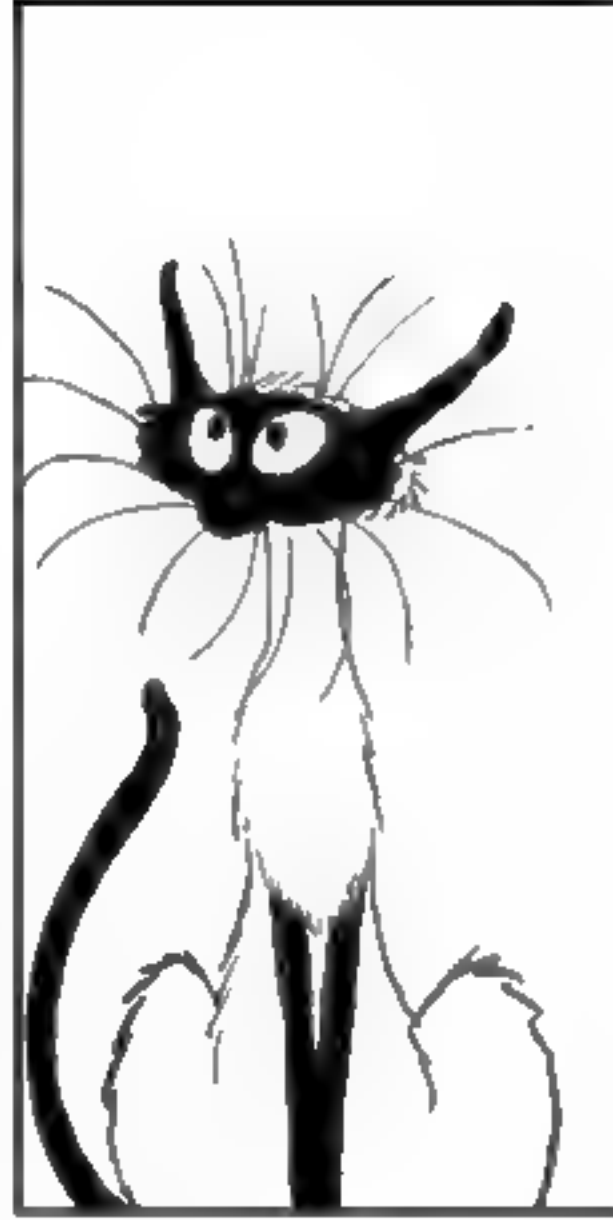
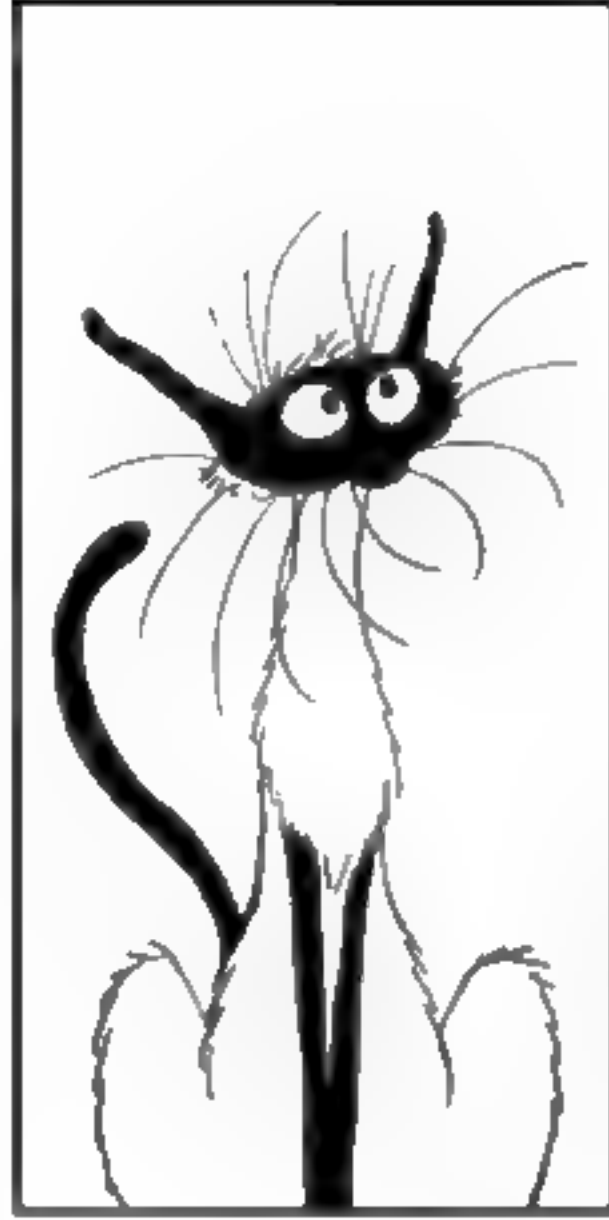
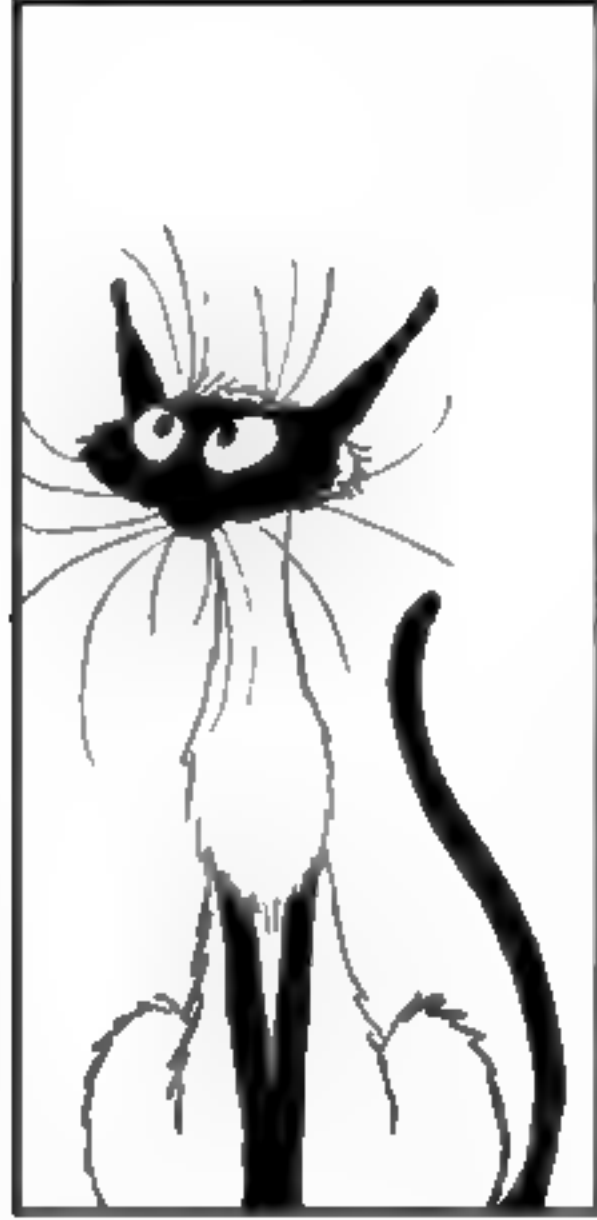
C... I'M SURE SOMEONE AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM
WILL BE ABLE TO SET THOSE WRISTS
IN A JIFFY.

D... ALL OF THE ABOVE.

Brooke

ANSWER: D





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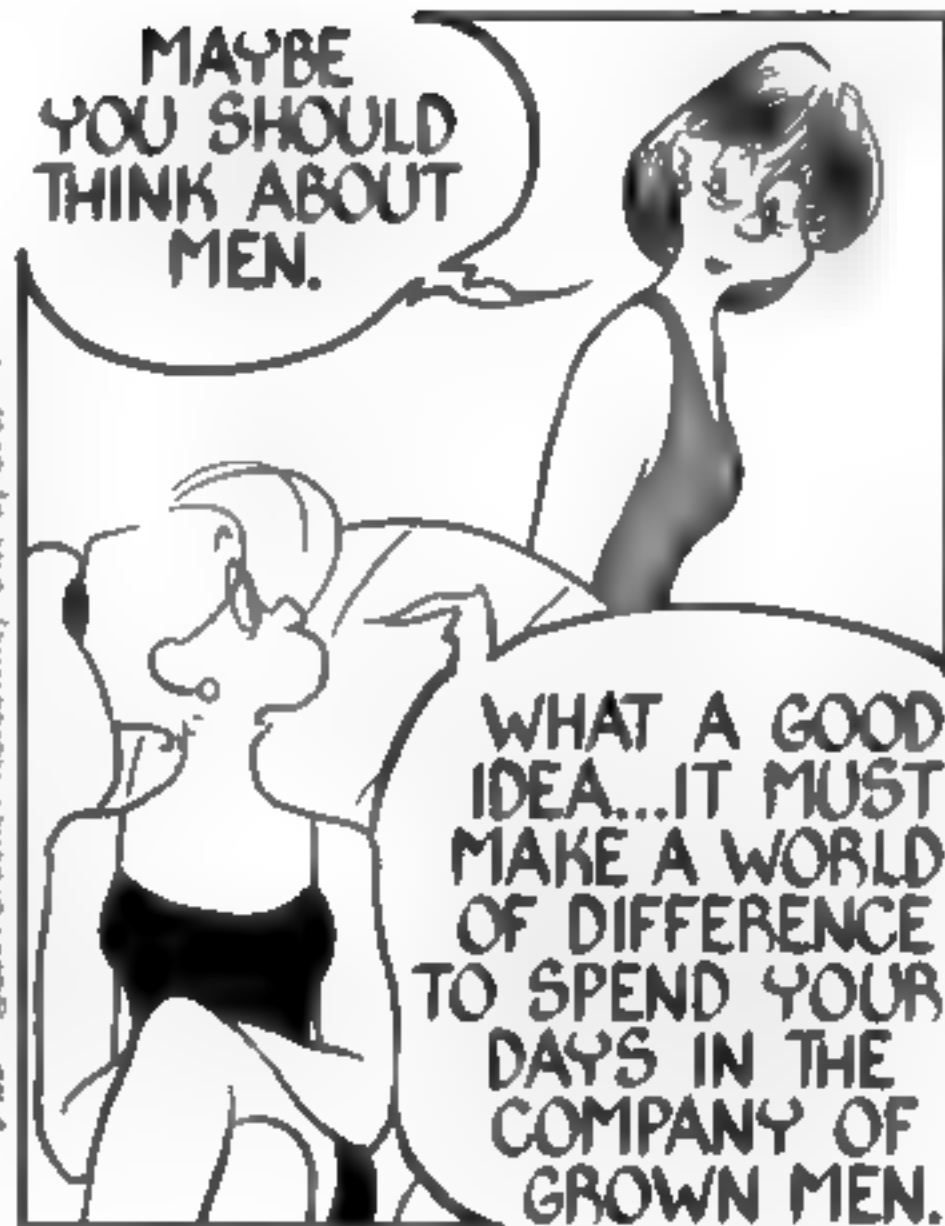


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WHO IS TAKING YOU OUT
TONIGHT, AND WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

I SEE THAT
AS BEING ON
A NEED-TO-
KNOW BASIS.



Brooke

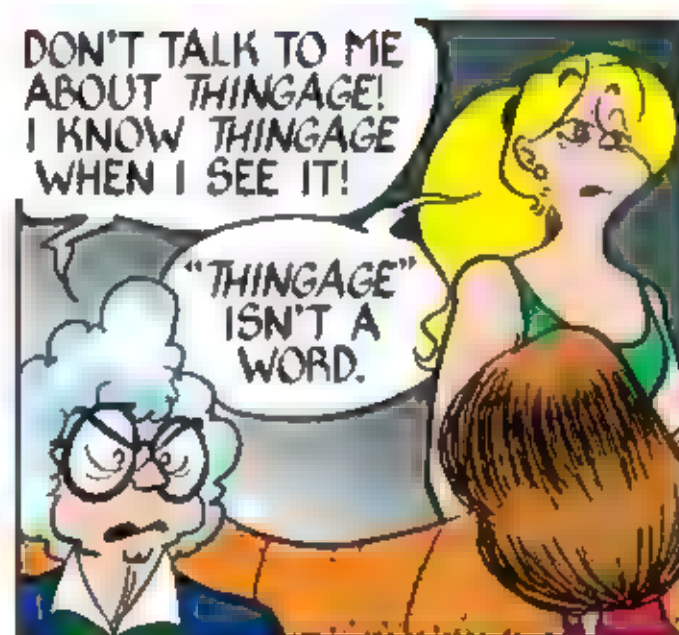
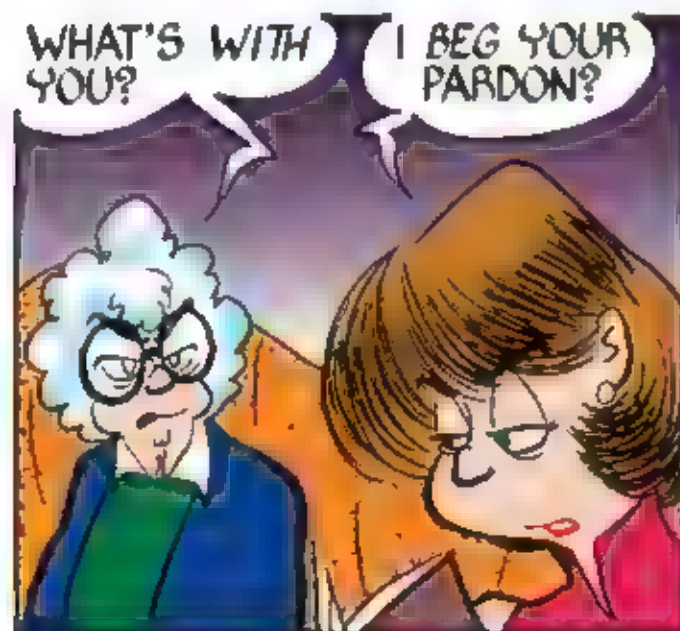
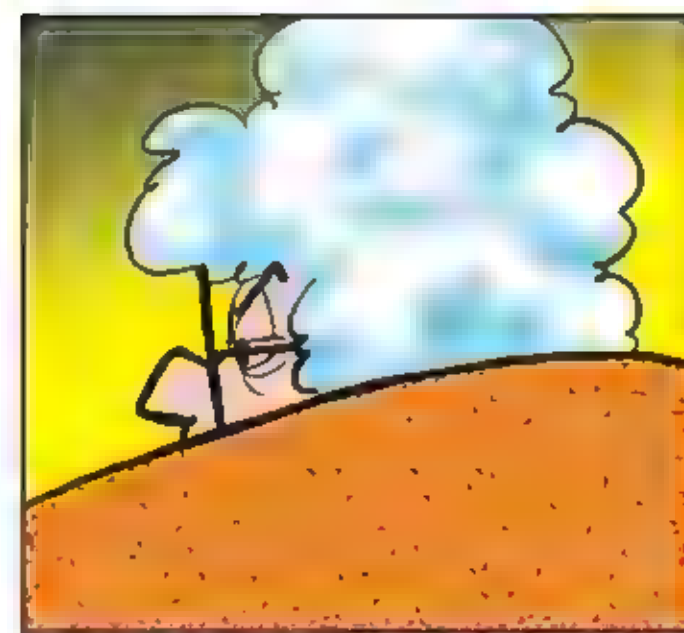


I'M YOUR "MOM"...WHICH IS A
TRADEMARK SYMBOL FOR THE
NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS.



STRANGE HOW
COMFORTING
THAT CAN BE.





I THINK I'M FEELING A
LITTLE CONFLICTED ABOUT
MY LIFE...MY CAREER,
MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH ELLIOTT...
EVERYTHING.

YOU
"THINK"
YOU ARE?



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WELL, SOMETIMES I DENY
MY FEELINGS UNTIL LITTLE
THINGS START TO HAPPEN...
I GET ACCIDENT-PRONE,
FORGETFUL...MAYBE AN
INVISIBLE PLAYMATE FROM
CHILDHOOD REAPPEARS...
YOU KNOW, THE USUAL
THINGS.

AH,
YES.



Brooke



WHAT?
...ARE YOU
WAITING
TO WEAR
THIS THING
FOR THE
TRICEN-
TENNIAL?

DR. NEUMANN, DO YOU
REMEMBER MY INVISIBLE
PLAYMATE FROM
CHILDHOOD?...
I CALLED HIM
MR. MCTWO?

YES...YOU
STARTED
SEEING HIM
AT A STRESS-
FUL TIME IN
YOUR LIFE.



6-1 ©2004 Jivoke McEidney Dist. by UFS IK

WELL, HE'S BACK, AND
PRETTY MUCH ALL THE
TIME NOW.

I'M SORRY,
I DIDN'T CATCH
WHAT YOU
SAID.



THAT'S
BECAUSE HE
HAS HIS TONGUE
IN YOUR EAR.

YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO SPEAK UP.

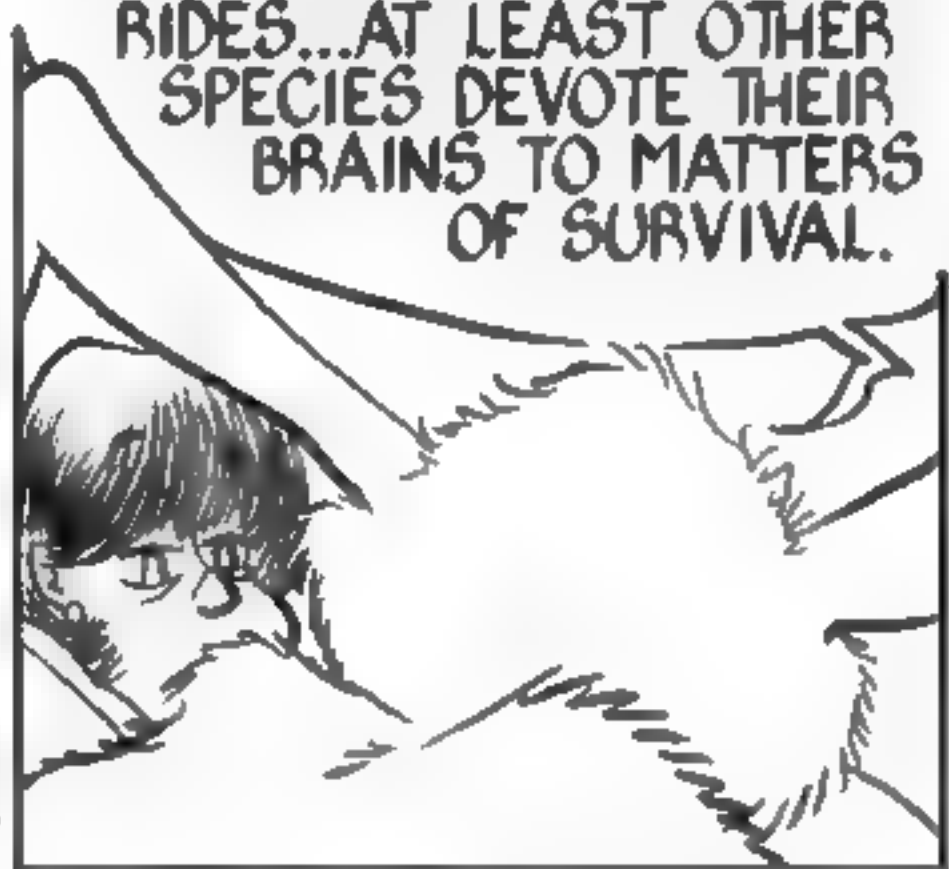
Brooke

WHAT
ARE
YOU
WRIT-
ING?

AS MY INVISIBLE,
CHILDHOOD PLAY-
MATE, YOU SHOULD
KNOW...IT'S A
SPEECH ASSERTING
HUMAN THOUGHT TO
BE THE ACME IN
SPECIES EVOLUTION.



ROT!...HUMAN BEINGS
DON'T THINK BEYOND THE
SYNAPSES REQUIRED TO
BUY ADMISSION TO R-RATED
FILMS AND ROLLER COASTER
RIDES...AT LEAST OTHER
SPECIES DEVOTE THEIR
BRAINS TO MATTERS
OF SURVIVAL.

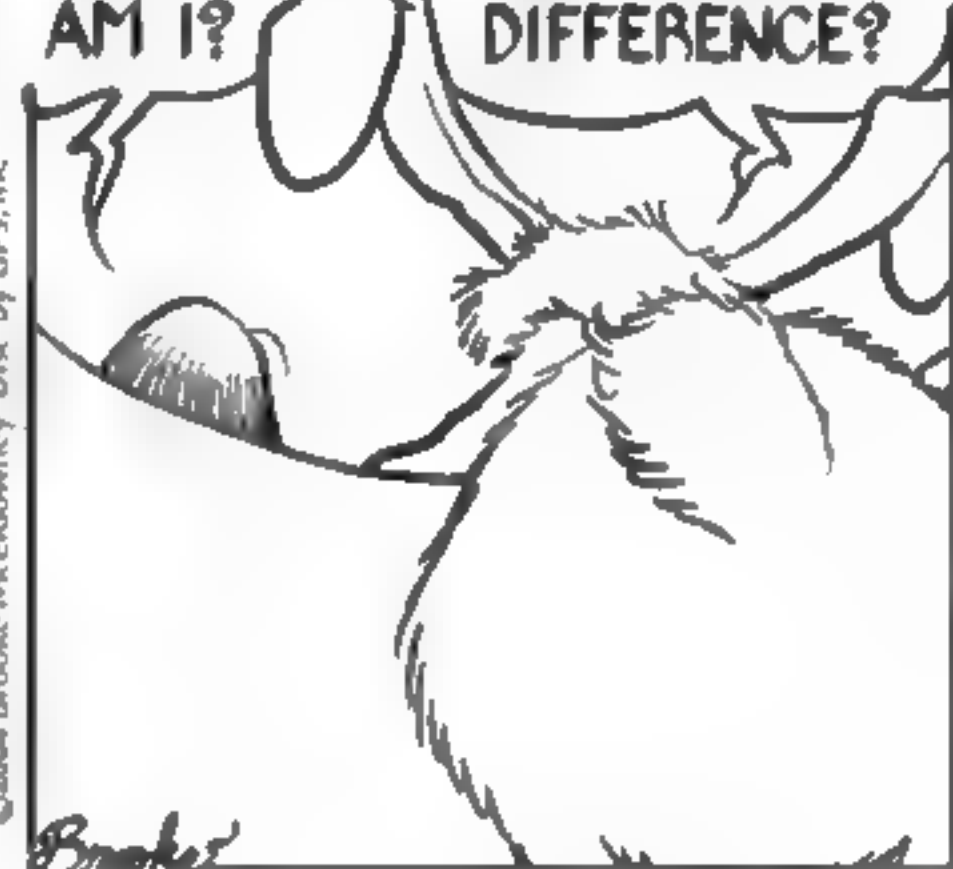


THE THING THAT TRULY SETS
PEOPLE APART FROM OTHER
ANIMALS IS NOT THEIR
THOUGHT PROCESS, BUT
THEIR ABILITY TO
CONGRATULATE
THEMSELVES
FOR HAVING
ONE.



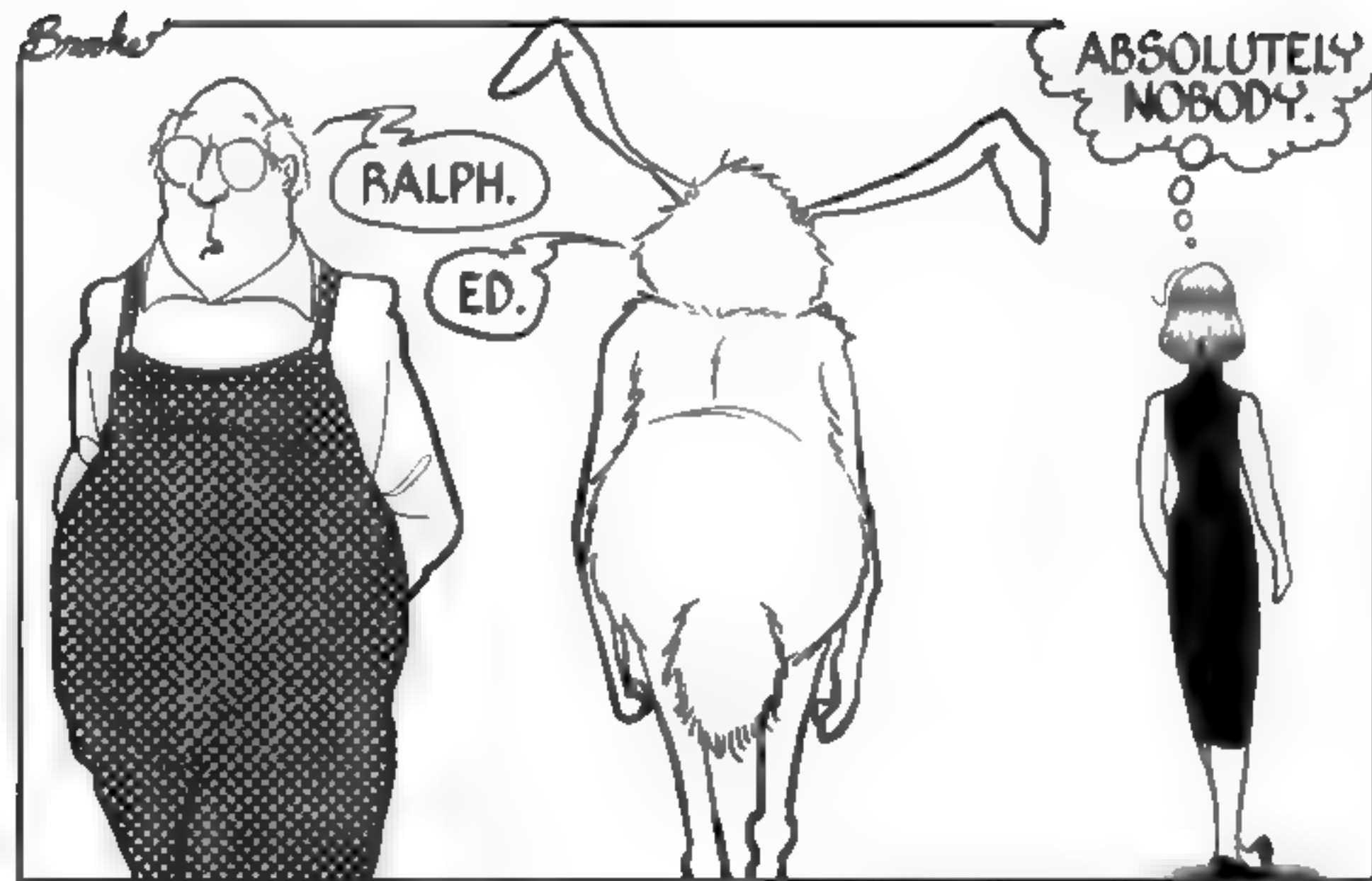
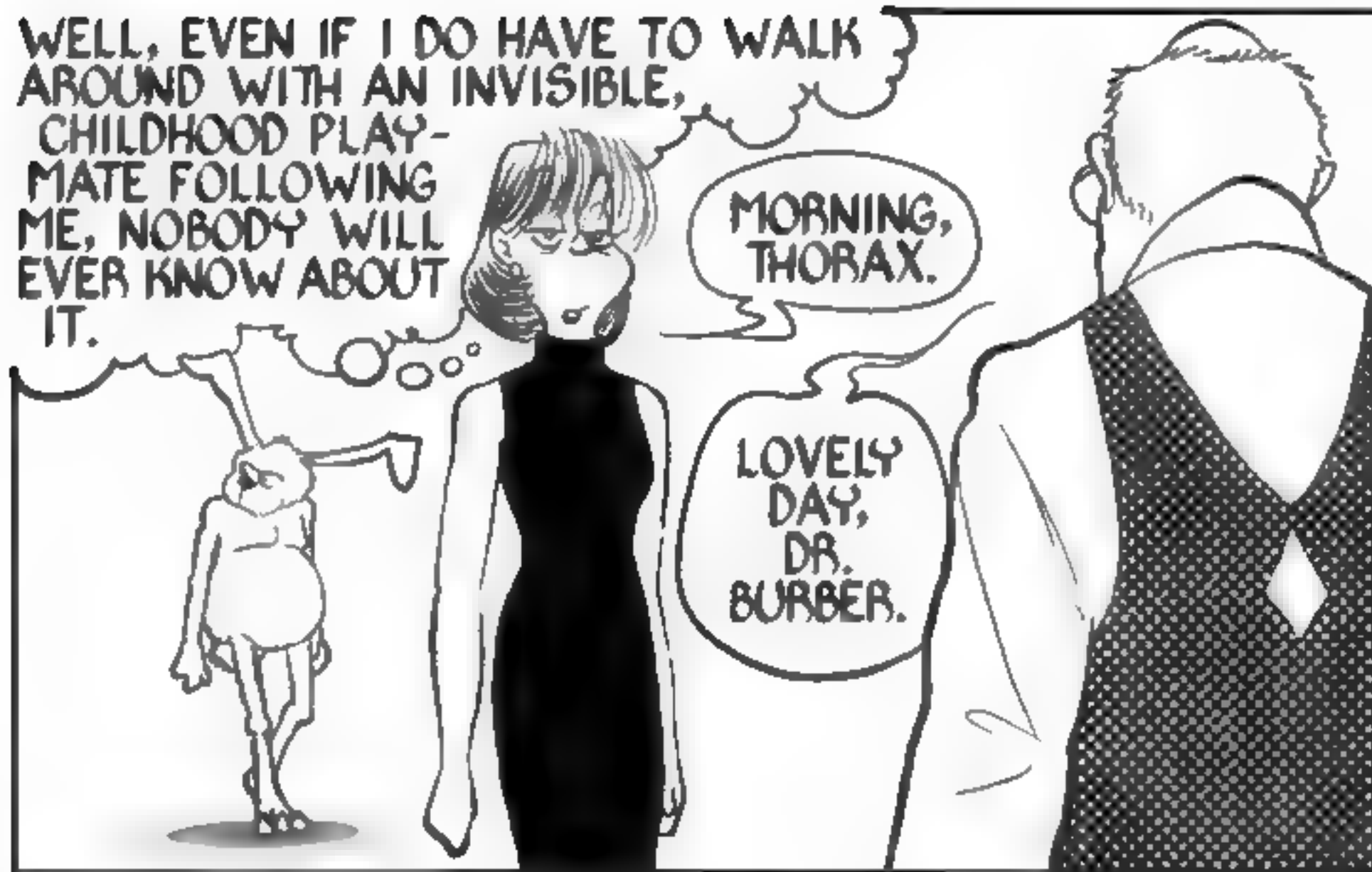
ARE YOU
WRITING
THIS
SPEECH,
OR
AM I?

SPEAKING AS
YOUR INVISIBLE,
CHILDHOOD
PLAYMATE,
IS THERE A
DIFFERENCE?



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Brooke



EVERY TIME I SEE YOU TWO,
YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS.



AND I'LL BET YOU'RE IN
CAHOOTS
RIGHT
NOW.



SEEMS
AN ODD
THING TO
WAGER
ON.

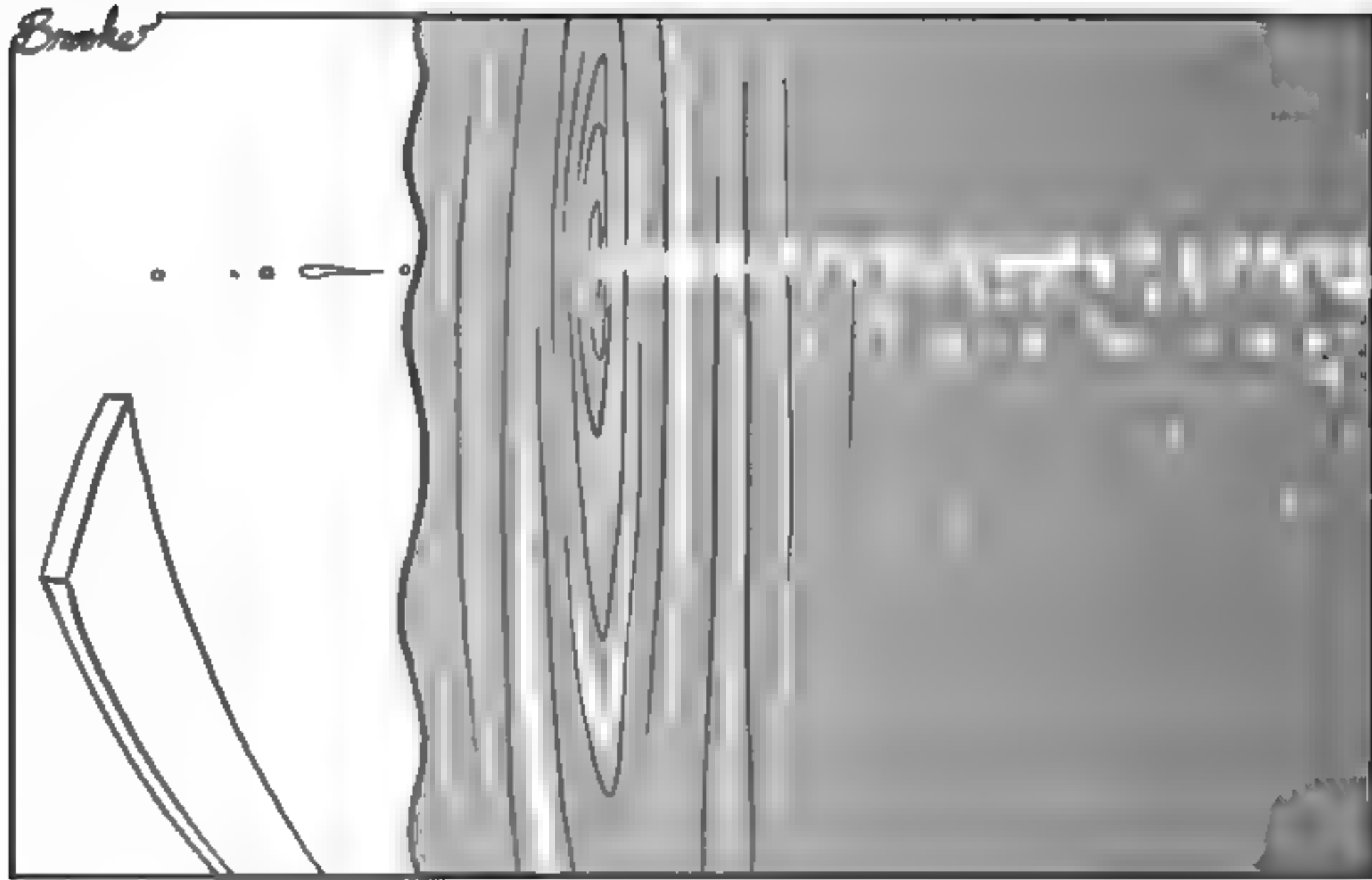


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I'M
PRETTY
SURE I'M IN
FRUIT OF
THE LOOMS.



Brooke



9 CHICKWEED LANE



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IF YOU
WANT
ANYTHING
DONE,
YOU
HAVE
TO DO IT
YOUR-
SELF.

Brooke



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Brooke

WOW. I WAS
FEELING LOUSY,
AND ONE LITTLE
BRUSH OF YOUR
KNUCKLES ON
MY CHEEK
MADE IT ALL
GO
AWAY.



IT'S
SOMETHING
I LEARNED
FROM
EXAMPLE.

WELL,
I WOULD
HAVE GIVEN
HER A GOOD
STERN
TALKING-TO.



THAT'S
THE EXAMPLE
I LEARNED
FROM.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU
DO IT...ONE MOMENT I'M IN
A ROTTEN MOOD, READY TO
LASH OUT AT EVERYONE,
THEN ALL YOU DO IS
LIGHTLY DRAW THE
KNUCKLES OF YOUR
RIGHT HAND OVER
MY CHEEK AND I
FEEL
LIGHT-
YEARS
BETTER.



Brooke

THE WORLD COULD USE
SUCH FANTASTIC
MINISTRATIONS.
YOU SHOULD
BE PRESIDENT.



NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT...
I'D NEED HUGE,
INDUSTRIAL-
GRADE
KNUCKLES.



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I HATE HEARING
THE RAG END OF OTHER
PEOPLE'S CONVERSATIONS.



IT'S STUFF AND NONSENSE,
THIS IDEA EDDA HAS THAT
YOU CAN LIGHTEN A MOOD
BY GIVING ONE
GENTLE BRUSH
TO THE CHEEK
WITH YOUR
KNUCKLES.



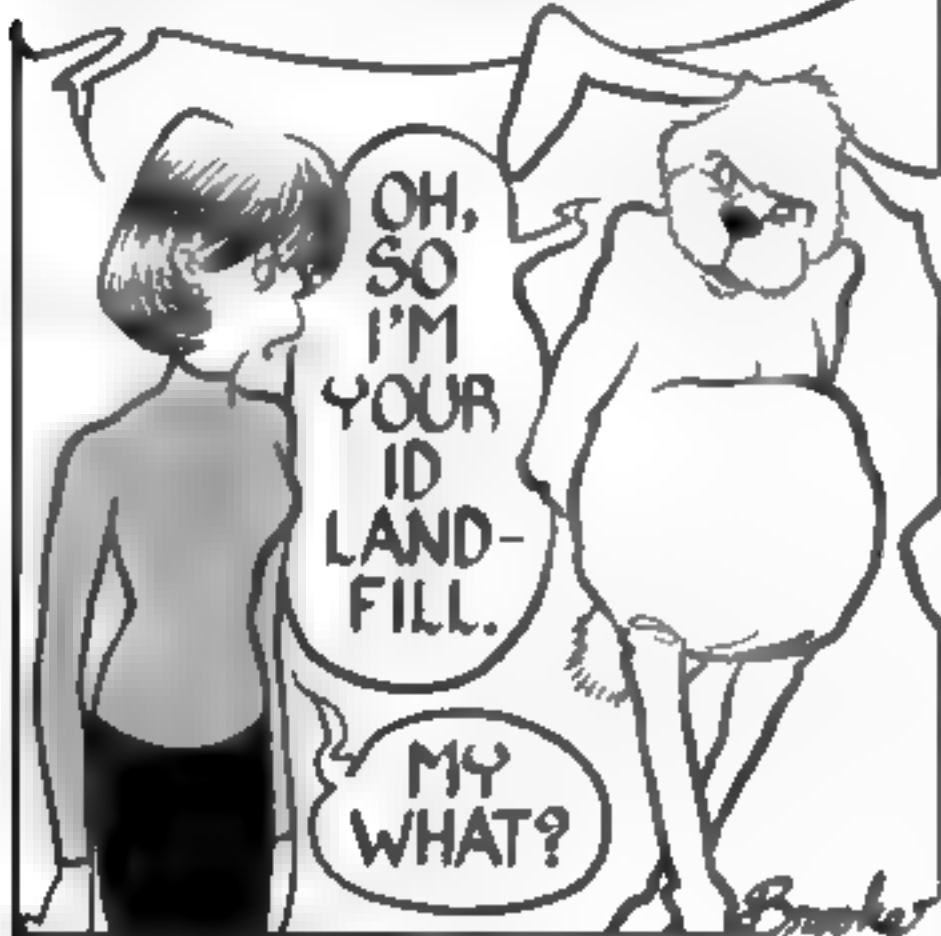
Brooke



WELL, ARE YOU GOING
TO DO THE OTHER CHEEK OR
LEAVE ME ALL LOPSIDED?



YOU AREN'T MY INVISIBLE
CHILDHOOD FRIEND, YOU'RE
JUST AN EXTENSION OF
MY OWN PERSONALITY.



OH,
SO
I'M
YOUR
ID
LAND-
FILL.

MY
WHAT?

Brooke

PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY
GREEDY, SALACIOUS
AND MISANTHROPIC...BUT
THEY DON'T LIKE TO LOOK
UPON IT, SO THEY BULL-
DOZE IT INTO AN ID
LANDFILL WHERE IT CAN
STINK AND DRAW FLIES
OUT OF SIGHT...WHAT YOU
CALL A "PERSONALITY
EXTENSION."



YOU'RE
CYNICAL
AND DIS-
GUSTING.



I GUESS YOU'D
KNOW...I'M THE
LANDFILL.
...THE GARBAGE
IS ALL
YOURS.

ON THE OTHER
HAND, YOU
MIGHT BE MY
INVISIBLE,
CHILDHOOD
PLAYMATE.



HEY...
THERE'S AN
OLD LADY.
WANT TO
TRIP HER?

WHEN YOU'RE
INTERVIEWING
AT A COLLEGE,
YOU HAVE TO
LEAVE YOUR
BEST IM-
PRESSION.

IN OTHER
WORDS,
LIE.

SHOW HOW
WELL YOU'D
FIT ON THEIR
CAMPUS.

SUPPRESS
ALL YOUR
INDIVIDU-
ALITY.

PUT YOUR BEST QUALITIES
FORWARD.

PRATTLE
WHAT THEY
WANT TO
HEAR.

YOU ARE
TALENTED,
UNCON-
VENTIONAL
AND UNIQUE!

ADMISSIONS POISON...
DON'T FORGET, YOU TOOK
ALL THOSE STANDARDIZED
TESTS TO PROVE THAT
YOU'RE STANDARD.

QUIT
SAYING
WHAT I
THINK!

MOM,
THERE'S
A VEIN
THROBBING
ON YOUR
FOREHEAD.

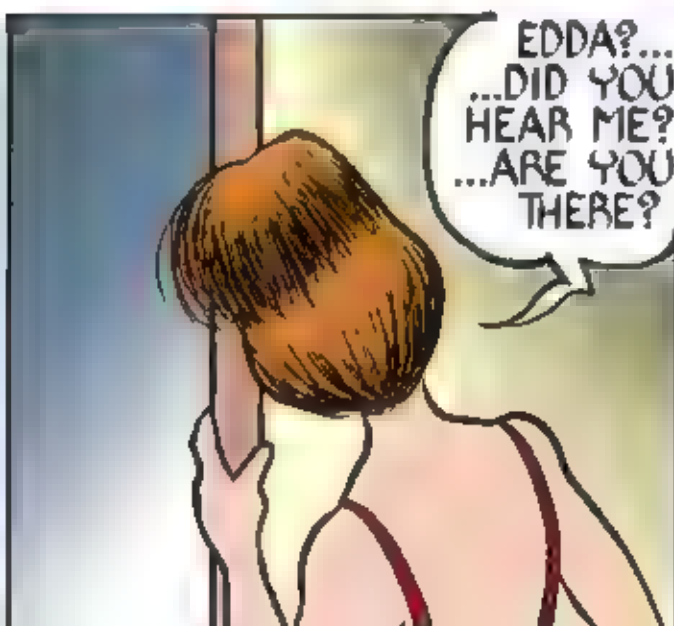
THE MANIFESTATION OF YOUR INNER SELF THROUGH AN
INVISIBLE PLAYMATE FROM CHILDHOOD MIGHT SEEM
TROUBLING, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT
YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECOGNIZE
AND MASTER THE
SITUATION. THIS
BODES WELL FOR A
COGNITIVE APPROACH
TO YOUR THERAPY,
AND IN TIME...

...BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

Brooke

GET A LOAD OF THE ZIT ON
THE TIP OF HER NOSE!...
...SOMEONE'S GOING TO
BE DINING ALONE
THIS WEEK.

NO
KIDDING.



TELL ME THE TRUTH...
DO YOU OBJECTIFY
ME?

NO.

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Brooke

NOT
EVEN
IF I DO
SOME-
THING
SEXY
LIKE...

...THIS?

WOW!

THAT'S AMAZING!...HOW DID
YOU DO THAT!? CAN I DO
THAT!?...SHOW ME
HOW TO DO
THAT!

THIS,
THEN, IS
THE PERFECT
MAN.

WHAT ARE
YOU UP TO
NOW?

I'M GATHERING
DISCOUNT
COU-
PONS.

WOW, "SAVE 25
PERCENT ON
ALL STORE
PURCHASES."
IT'S JUST
LIKE GETTING
MONEY!

WELL,
THAT'S NOT
EXACTLY
WHAT I...

AND IT SOUNDS SO MUCH
BETTER THAN, "WE
SELL
CHEAP
CRUD."

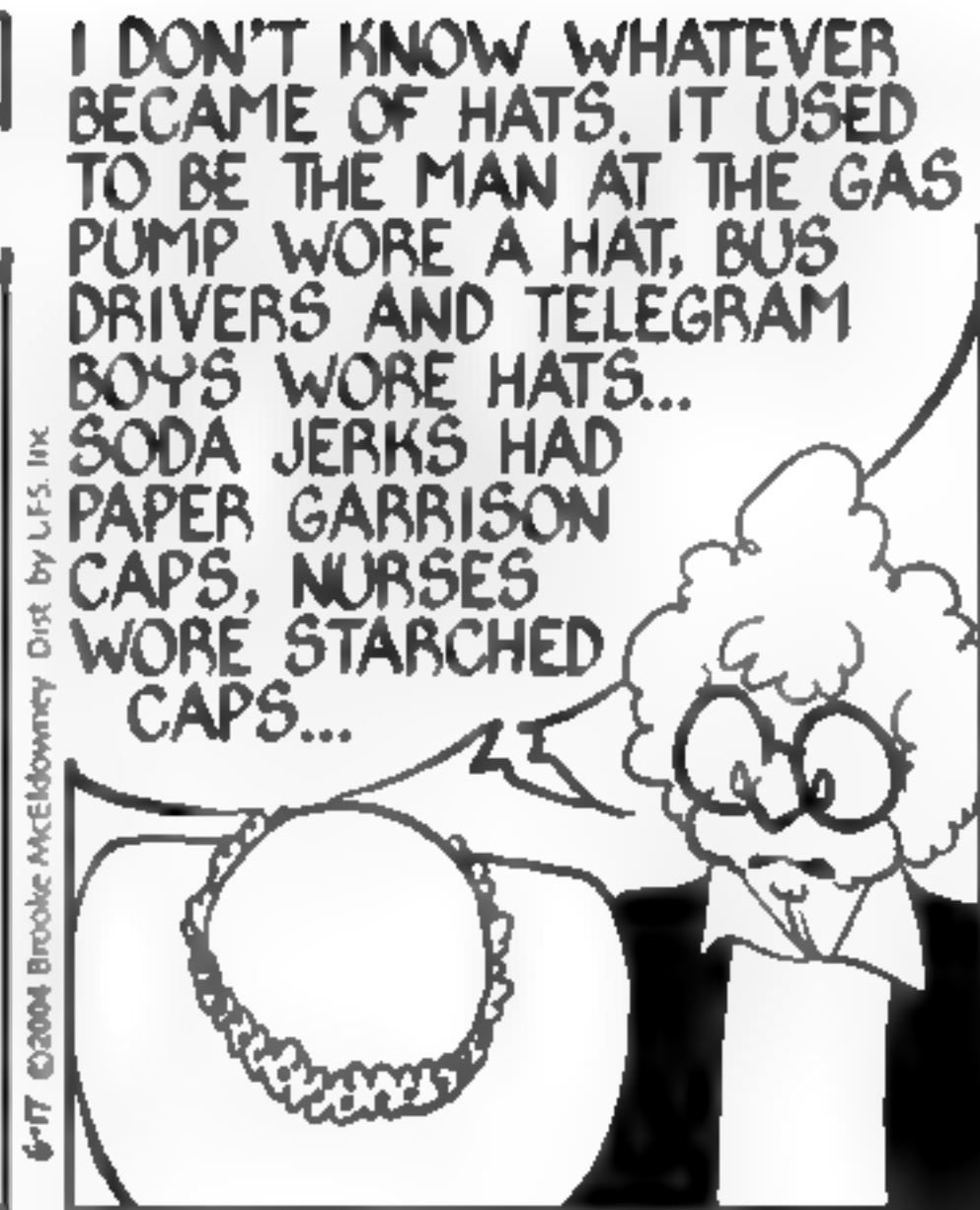
IT'S COUPON CONFETTI...
NOW JUST IMAGINE
HOW MUCH
MONEY I'M
SAVING!

YOU'VE
BEEN
TALKING TO
YOURSELF
AGAIN,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

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Brooke



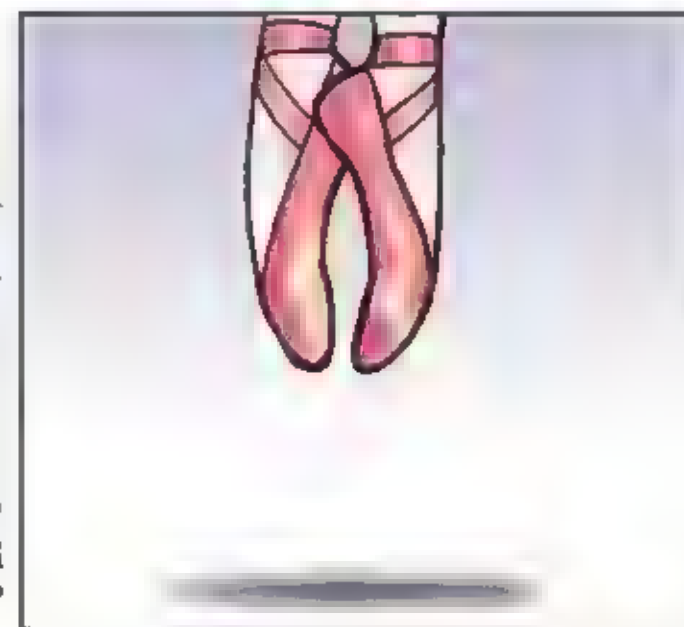
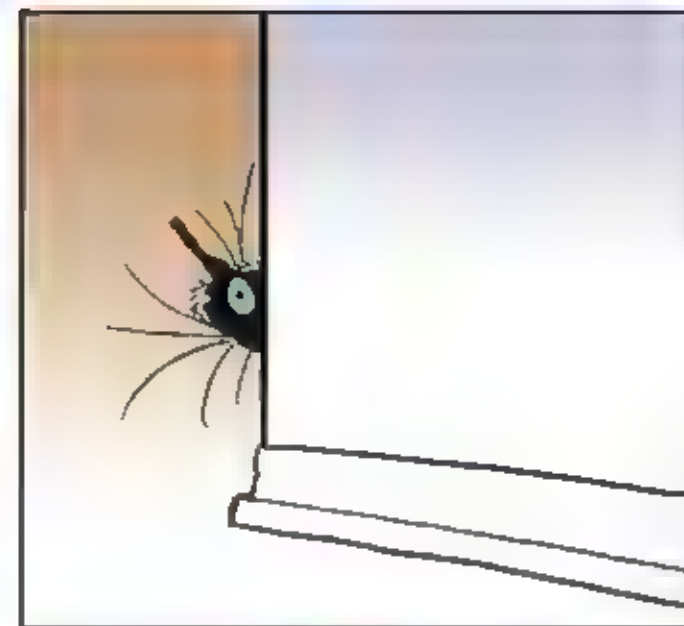




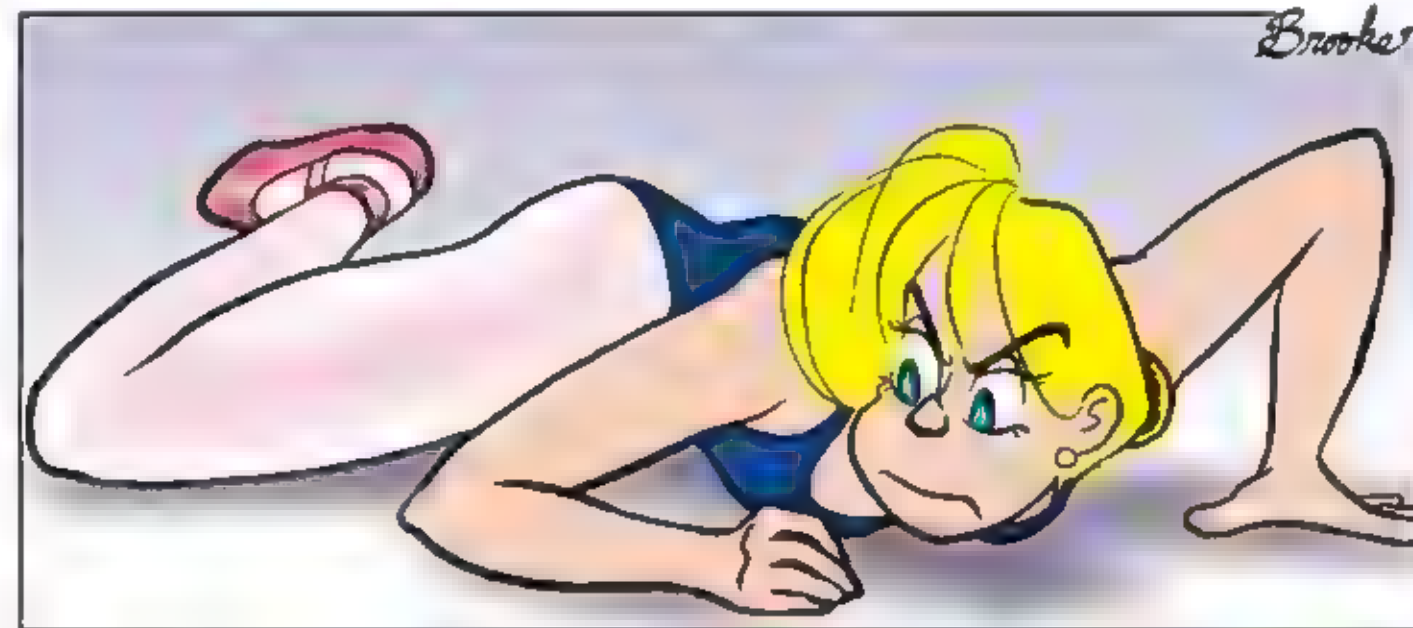
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FIRST,
SHOCK...



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...THEN
DISMAY...



...AND NOW,
SHOCK AND
DISMAY.



TO BE HONEST, I ANTICIPATED
SOMETHING ELSE WHEN YOU
ASKED ME TO WATCH YOUR
JUGGLING ACT.



THAT YOU RAIN TERROR AND
BRUTALITY ON OTHERS ISN'T
EXCUSED BY YOUR STATUS
AS A MICROCEPHALIC
PRE-HOMINID.



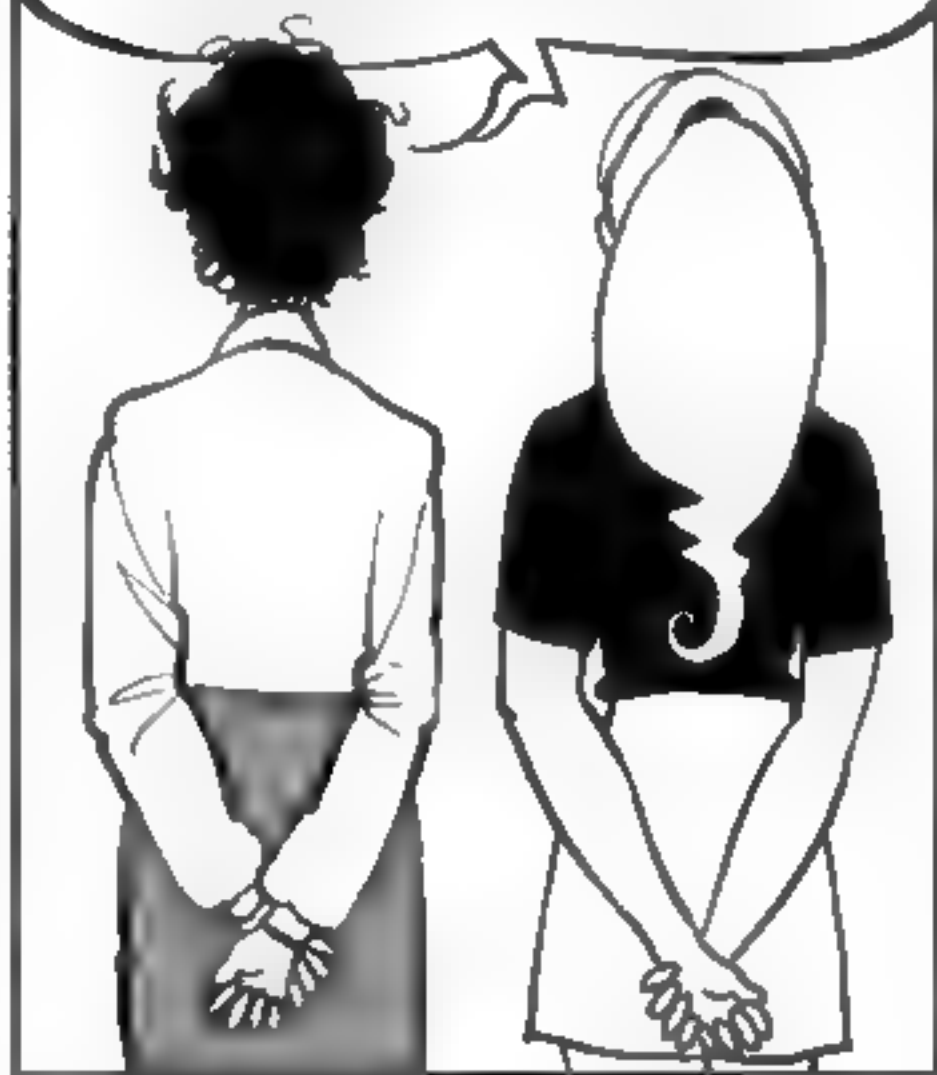
YOU HAVE THE INSTINCTS
OF A COCKROACH, THE I.Q.
OF A SLUG AND THE
PERSONAL CHARISMA
OF ATHLETE'S
FOOT.

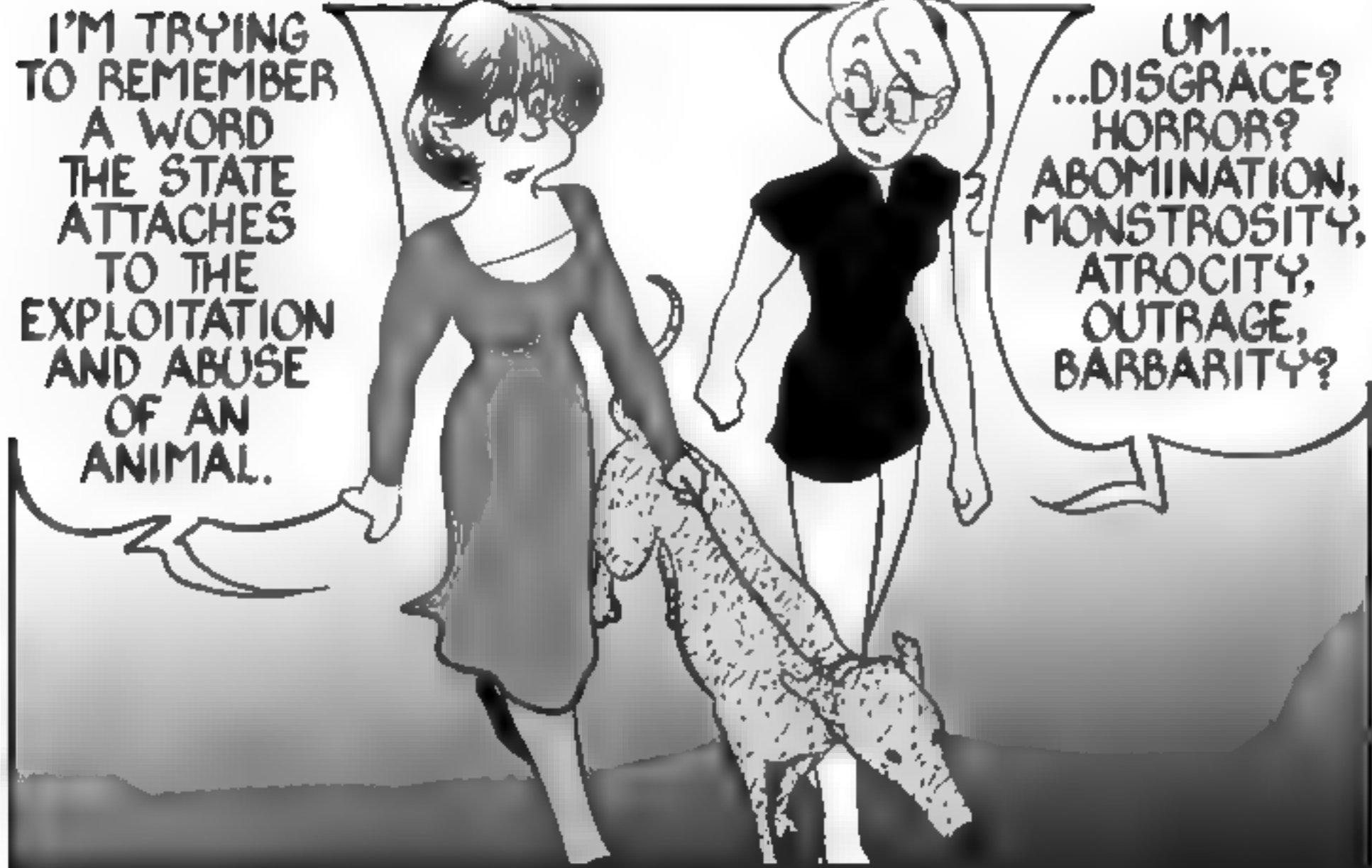


I CALLED HIM EVERYTHING
BUT HUMAN, AND ALL HE DID
WAS WALK AWAY SMILING.



TO HIM, THAT'S A GOOD
PERFORMANCE REVIEW.





I'M TRYING
TO REMEMBER
A WORD
THE STATE
ATTACHES
TO THE
EXPLOITATION
AND ABUSE
OF AN
ANIMAL.

UM...
...DISGRACE?
HORROR?
ABOMINATION,
MONSTROSITY,
ATROCITY,
OUTRAGE,
BARBARITY?



I'M
THINKING
OF WHEN
THE STATE
PROFITS
BY IT.

OH...
PARI-MUTUEL.

THAT'S
THE
WORD.

Brooke

WHEN THERE'S HOARFROST
ON THE CHICKEN WIRE,
COW PATS
ARE BOUND
TO
STEAM.

PITHY
NEW ENGLAND
FOLK WISDOM
3¢

TRANSLATOR
15¢

Brooke

BUY LOW,
SELL HIGH.

PITHY
NEW ENGLAND
FOLK WISDOM
3¢

TRANSLA
15¢

A CAT ON THE HOB
AIN'T GONNA SING
LEST YOU POKE
UP THE
COALS.



**PITHY
NEW ENGLAND
FOLK WISDOM**
3¢

I SEE...THAT'S A FASCINATING
HYPOTHESIS, BUT
FLAWED IN ITS
CONJOINING OF
FOURTH-
DIMENSION
PARADOXES
WITH THINLY
VEILED EXIS-
TENTIALISM.



TRANSLATOR
15¢



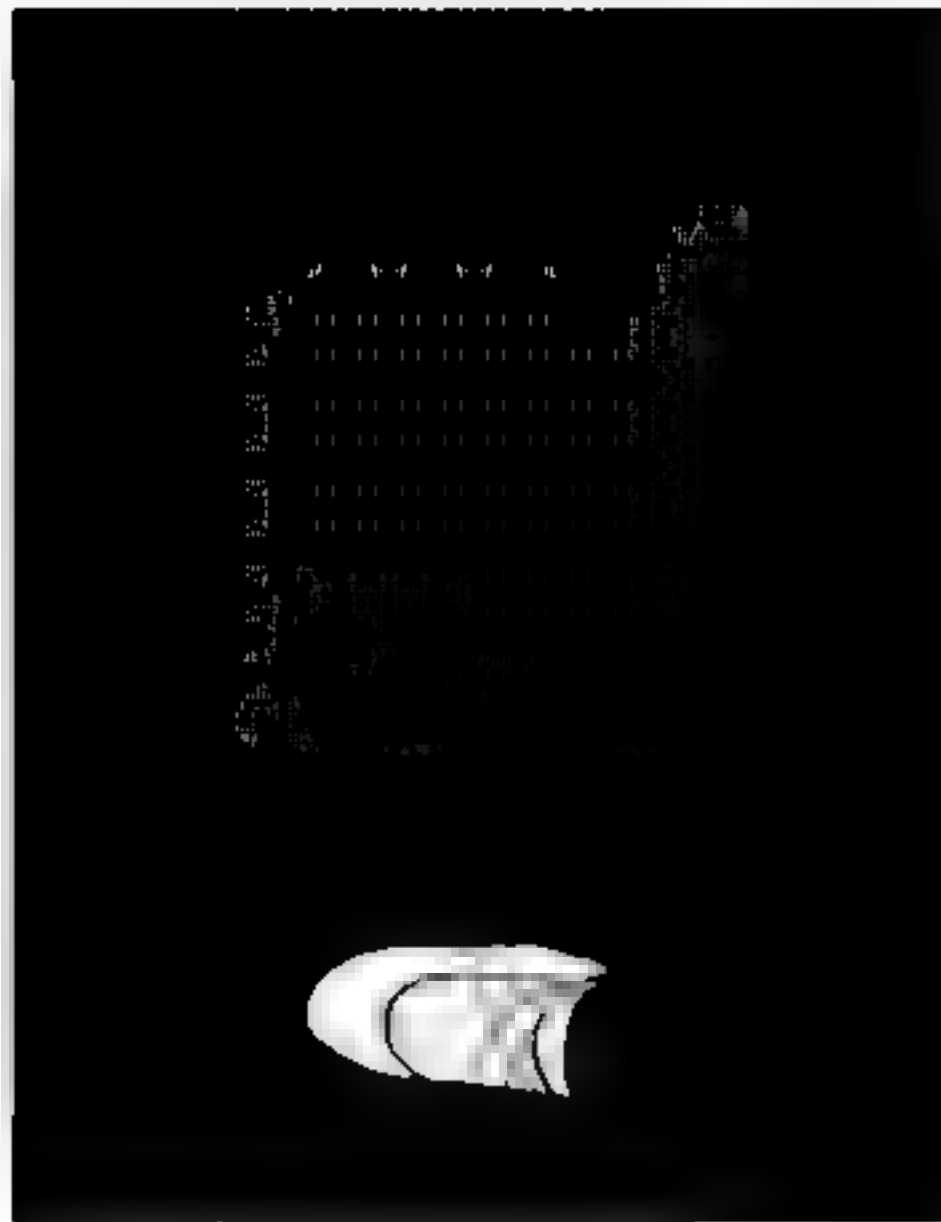
WHEN I SAY
A CAT ON THE HOB
AIN'T GONNA SING,
I MEAN A CAT ON THE
HOB AIN'T GONNA
SING.

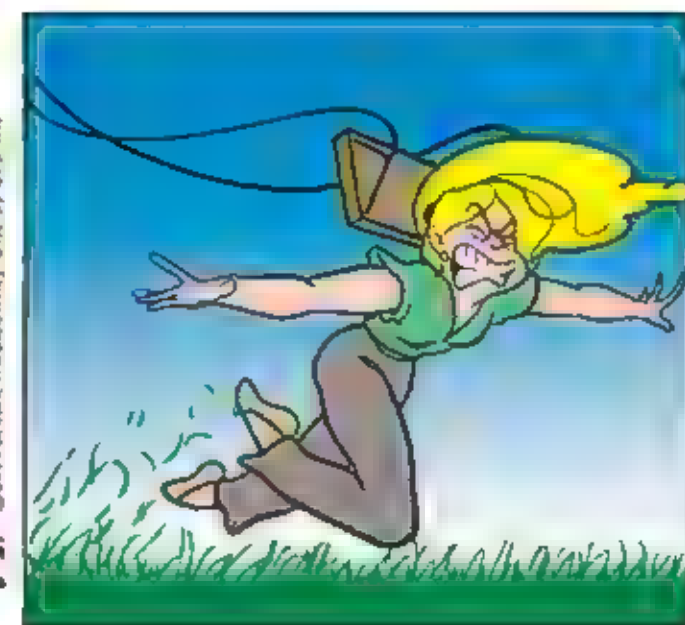
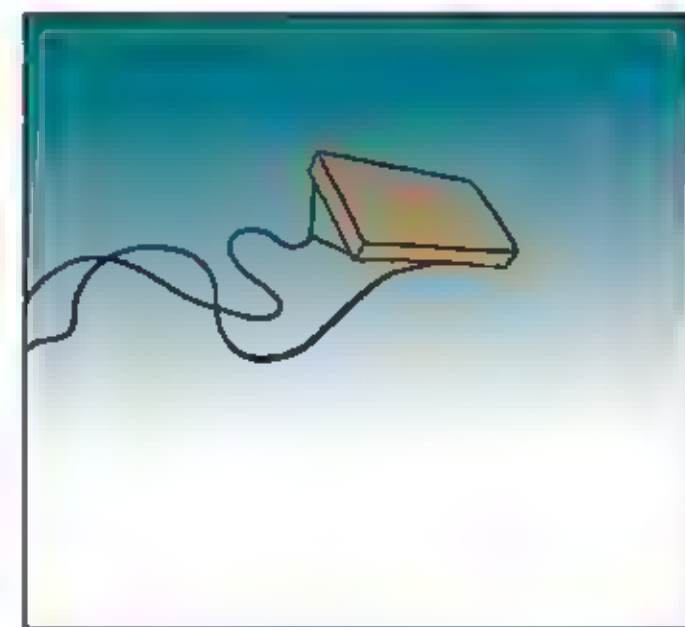
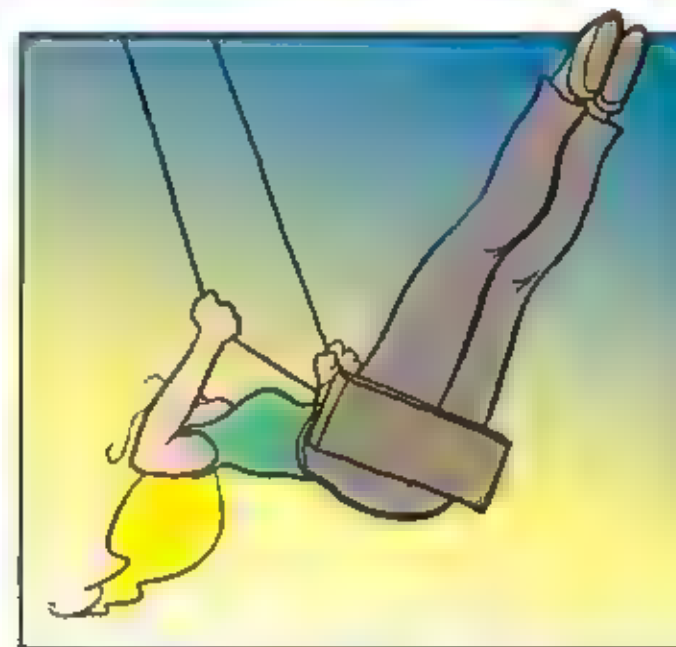
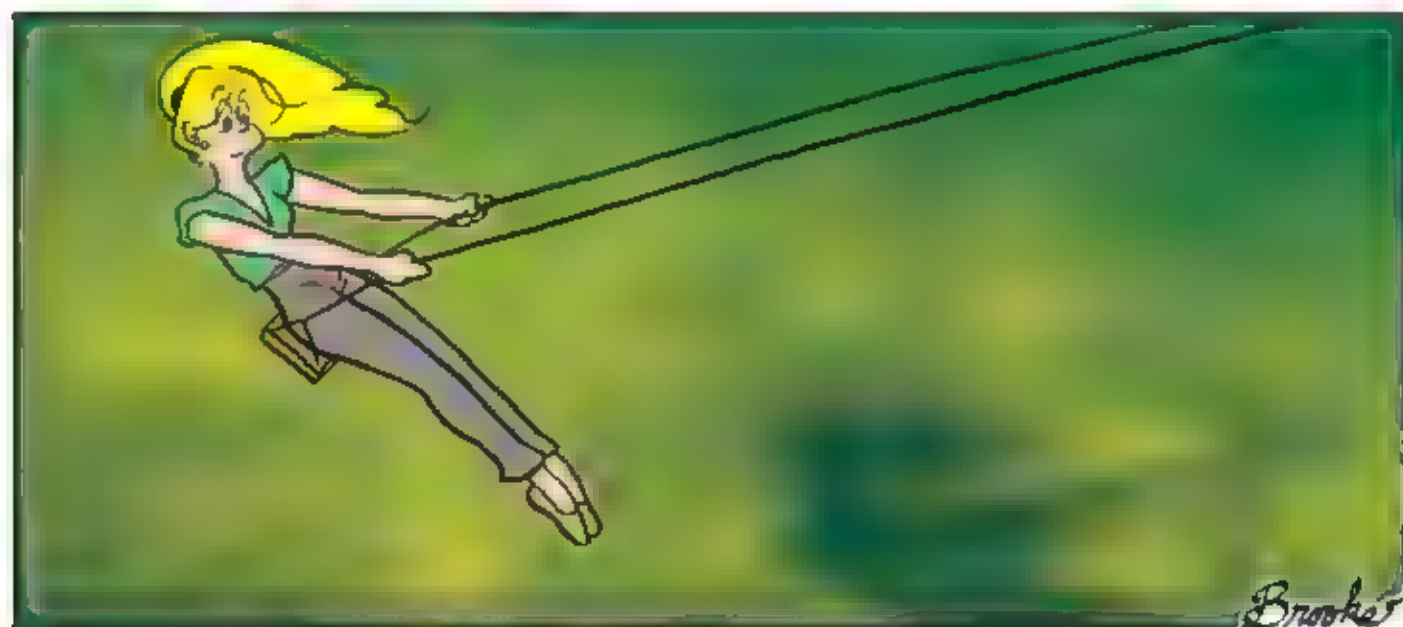
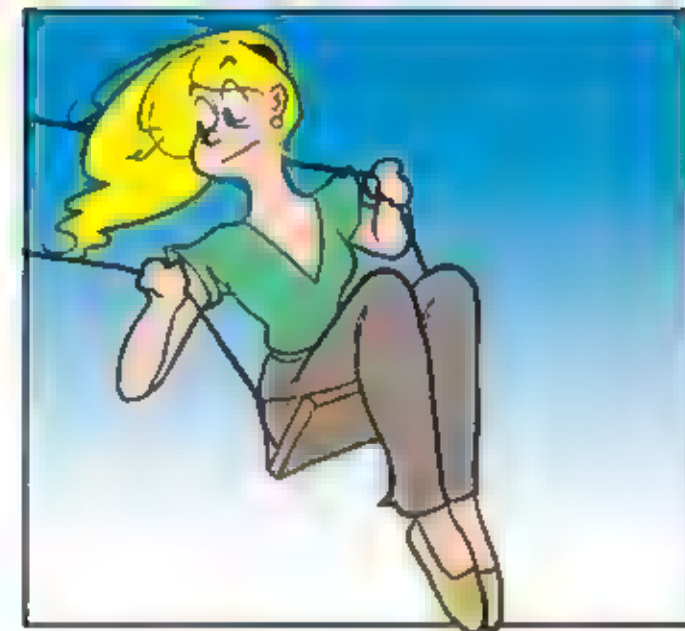


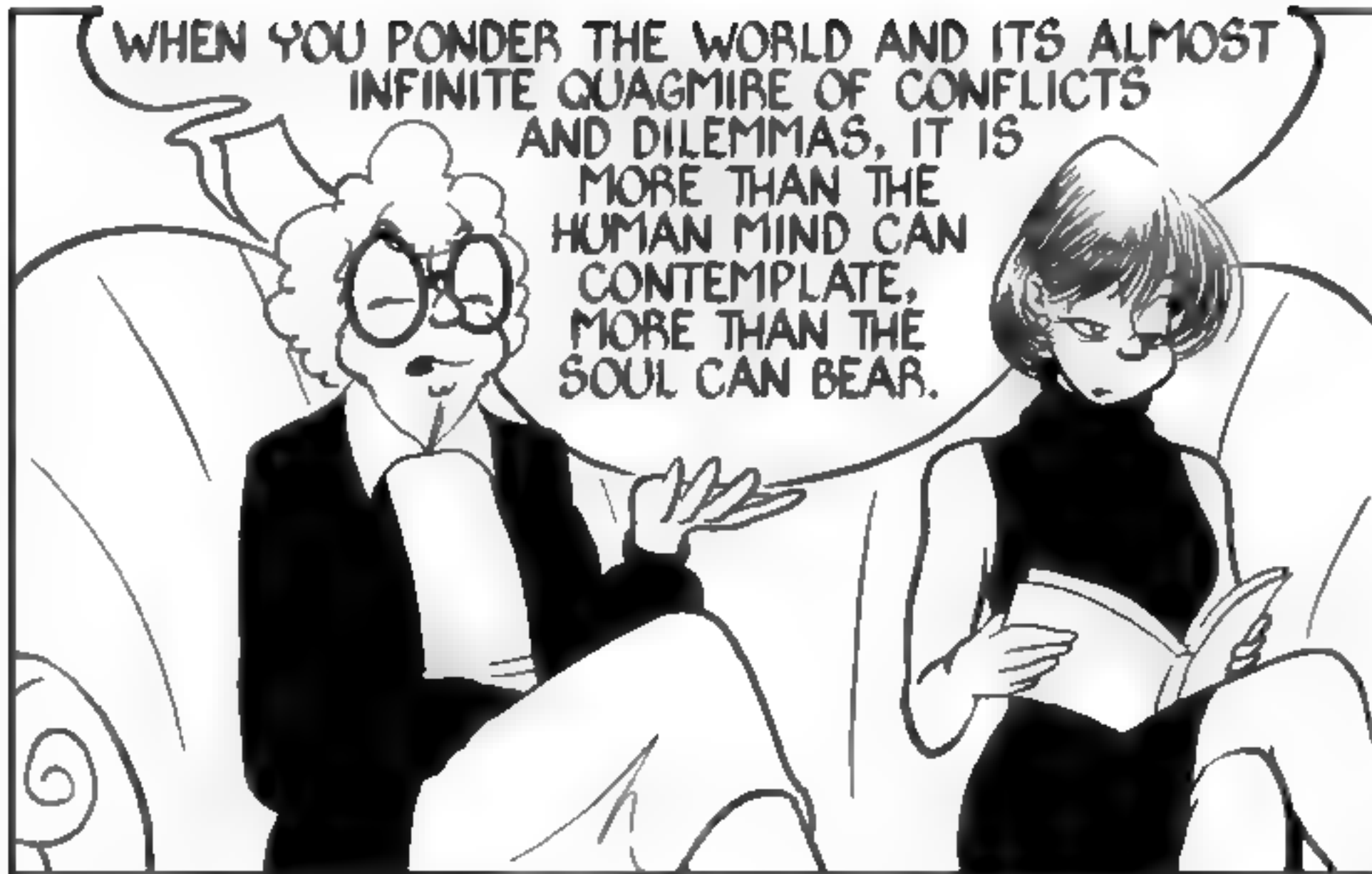
WELL, THAT
ISN'T THE
FIRST TIME A
DISCUSSION
OF QUANTUM
PHYSICS
WENT RIGHT
OVER MY
HEAD.



Brooks





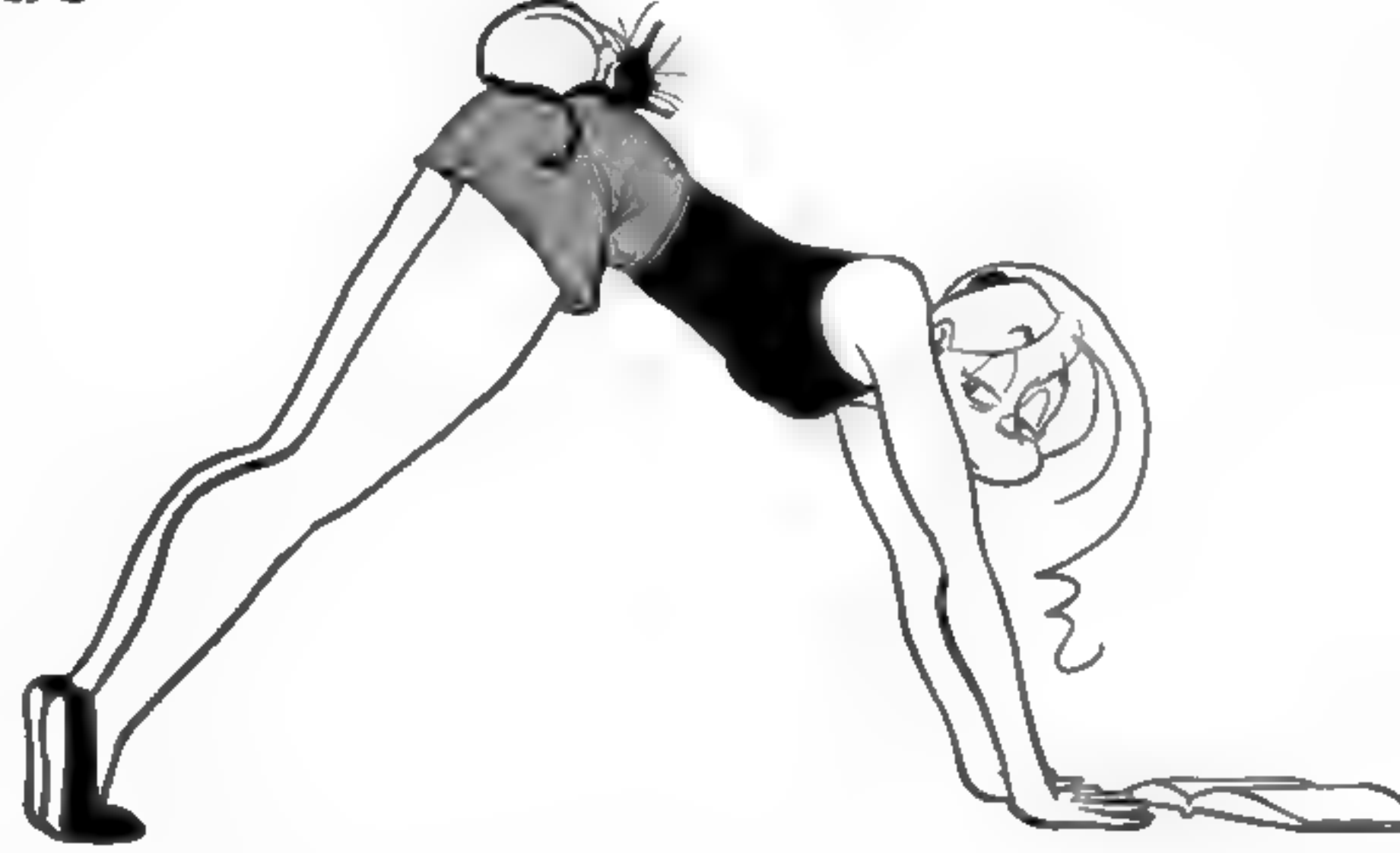




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Brooke



SISTER STEVEN, AMOS HAS
BEEN WAYLAID
BY BULLIES
AGAIN.

I WILL
NOT HAVE
THIS AT MY
SCHOOL.
HOW DID IT
HAPPEN?



I WAS GOING TO LATIN
CLASS WHEN A HAND
PULLED ME INTO SISTER
BARTHOLOMEW'S ROOM...
THAT'S THE PLACE I WAS
GANGED UP ON IN.



OH, MY LORD!

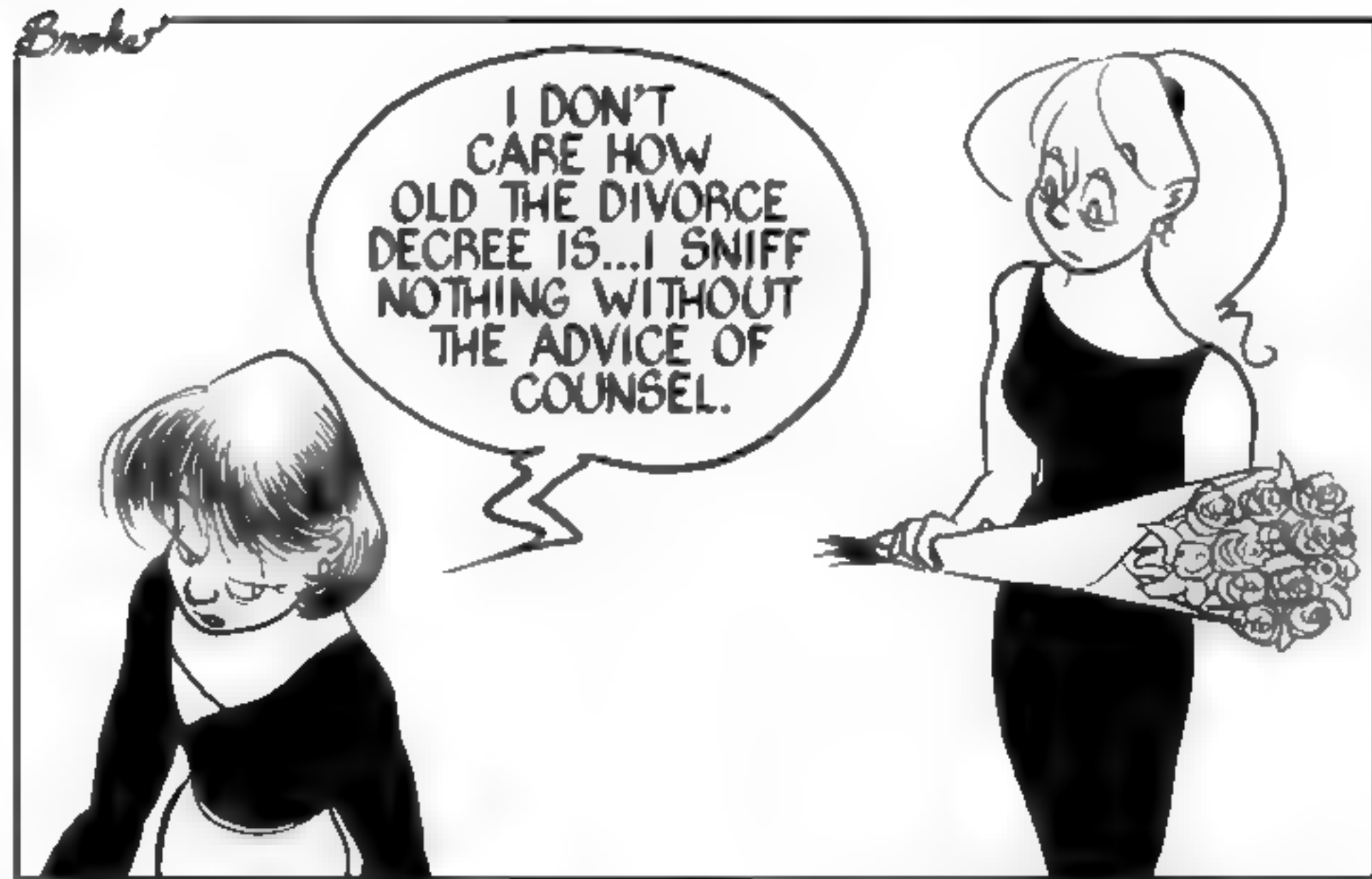
WHAT'S
WRONG?

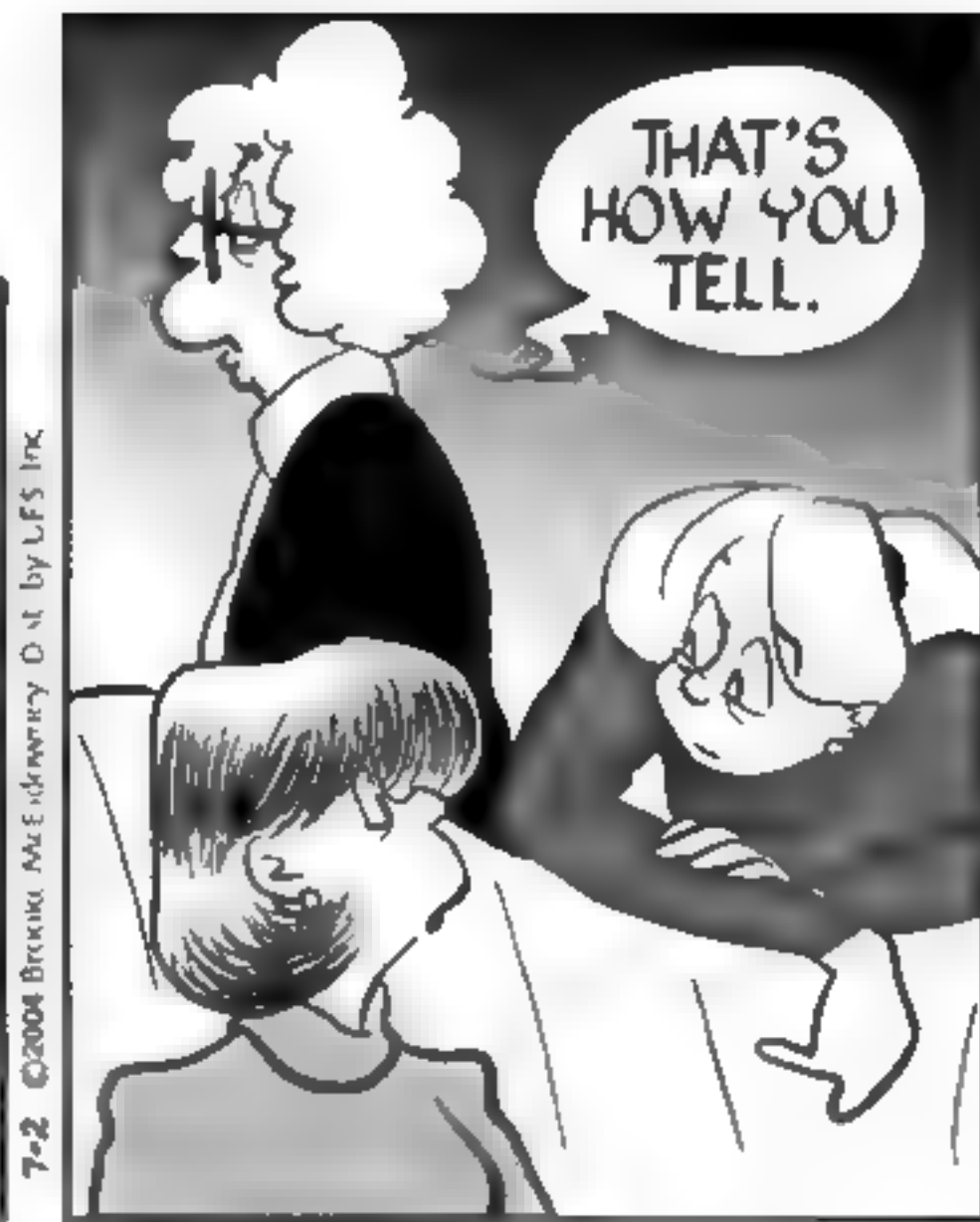
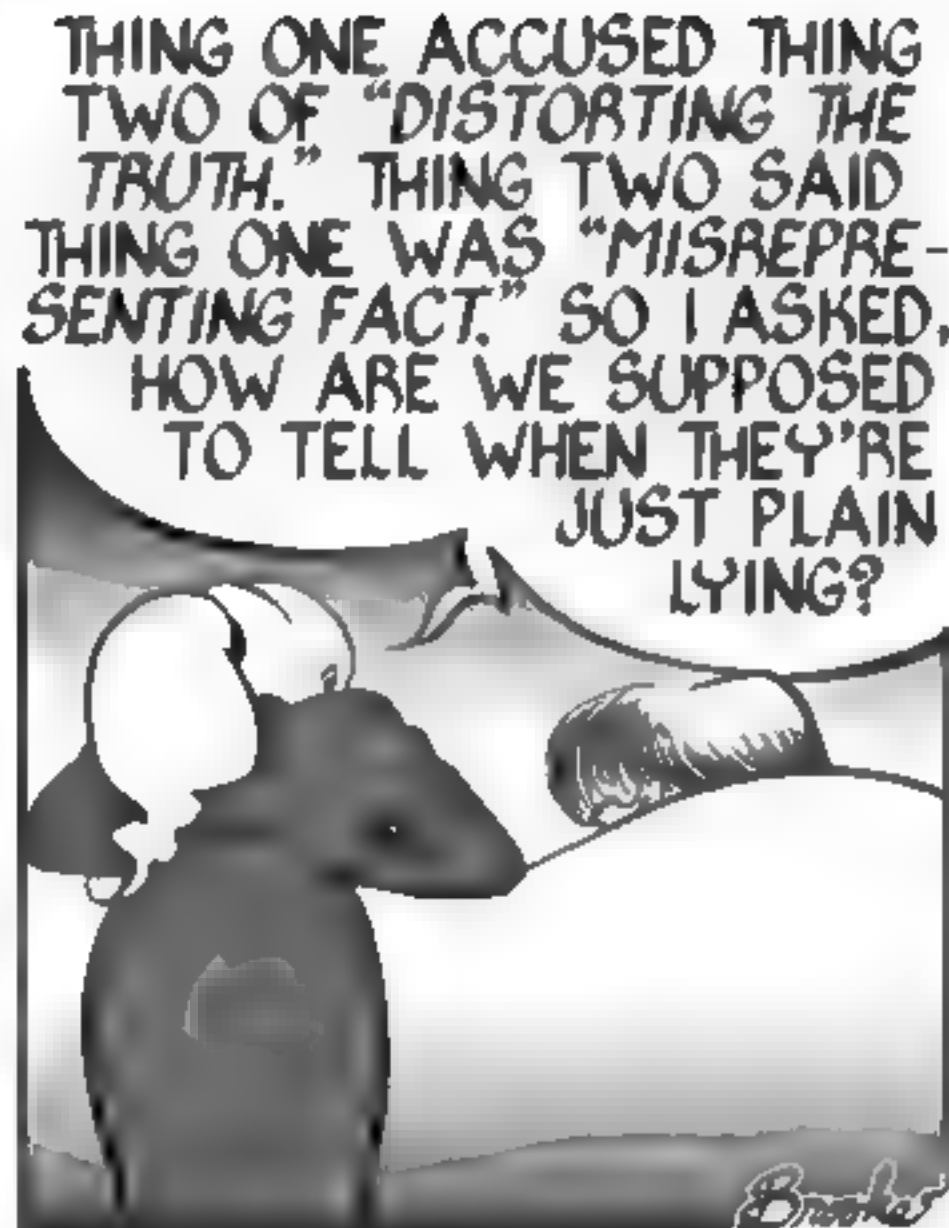


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I JUST ENDED
A SENTENCE WITH
THREE PREPOSITIONS!
WILL THE HORROR
NEVER CEASE?!







THE TROUBLE IN A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY LIES IN CAREFULLY WEIGHING WHAT THE PRIMARY CANDIDATES HAVE TO OFFER BEFORE CASTING AN INFORMED VOTE.

NO SMALL DECISION.



Brooke

SO, WHO'RE YOU GIVING THE NOD?...
...THE SANCTIMONIOUS
CONGENITAL LIAR, OR
THE SMUG SOCIOPATH?

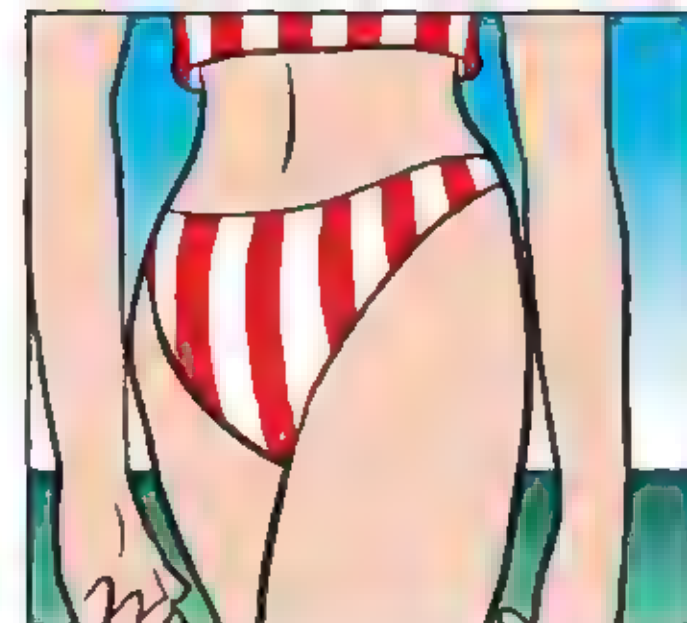


RIGHT NOW,
I'M
THINKING
SOCIO-
PATH.

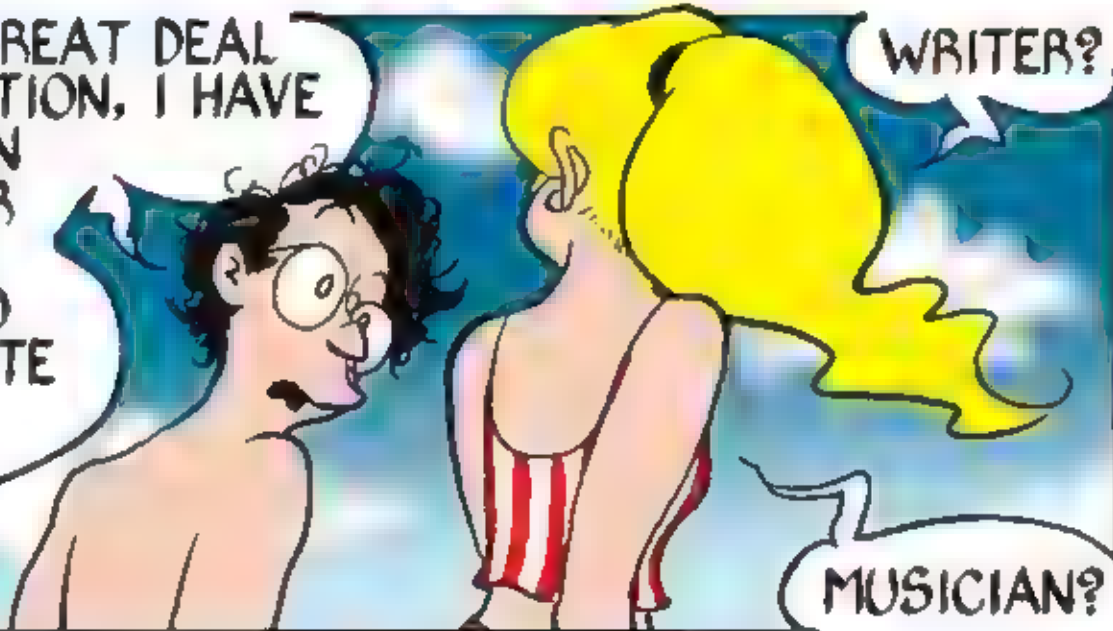
AN
EMBARRASSMENT
OF CHOICE.



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AFTER A GREAT DEAL
OF REFLECTION, I HAVE
DECIDED ON
THE CAREER
TO WHICH
I WANT TO
CONSECRATE
MY LIFE.



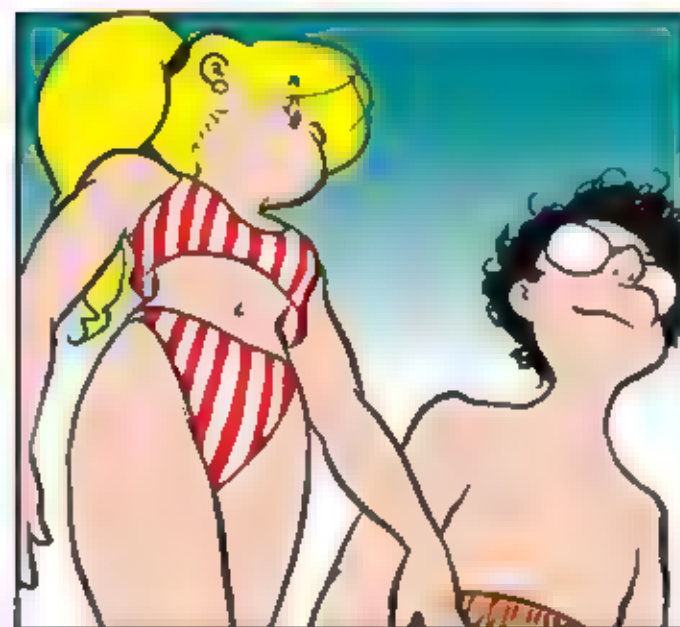
WRITER?

MUSICIAN?



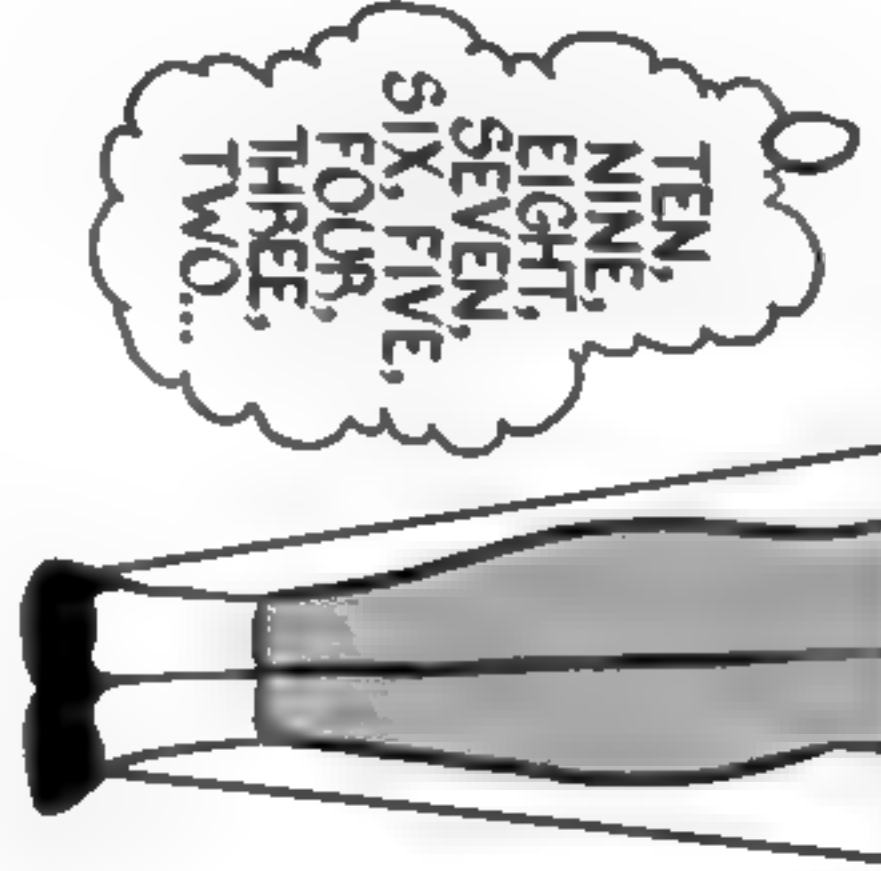
BODY
DOUBLE.

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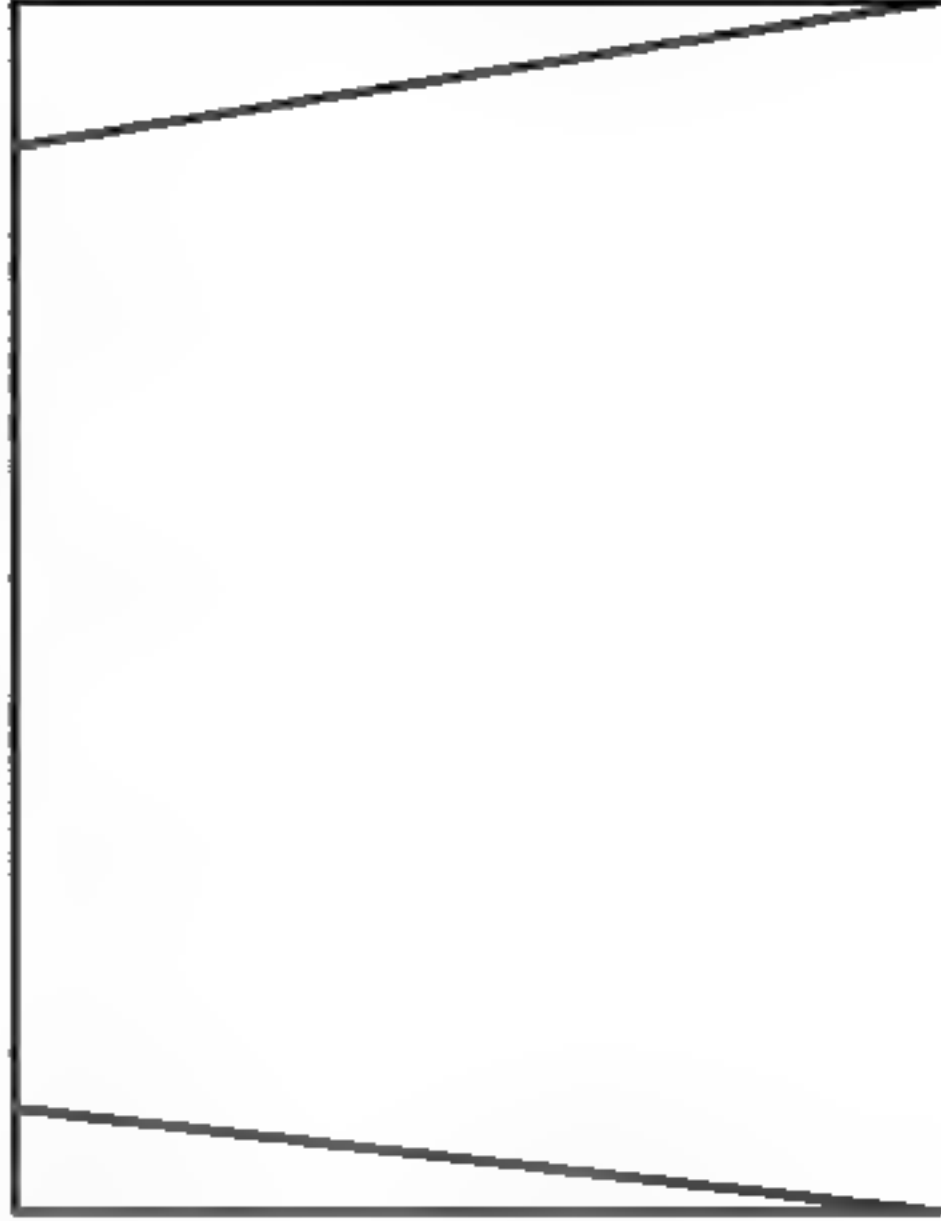
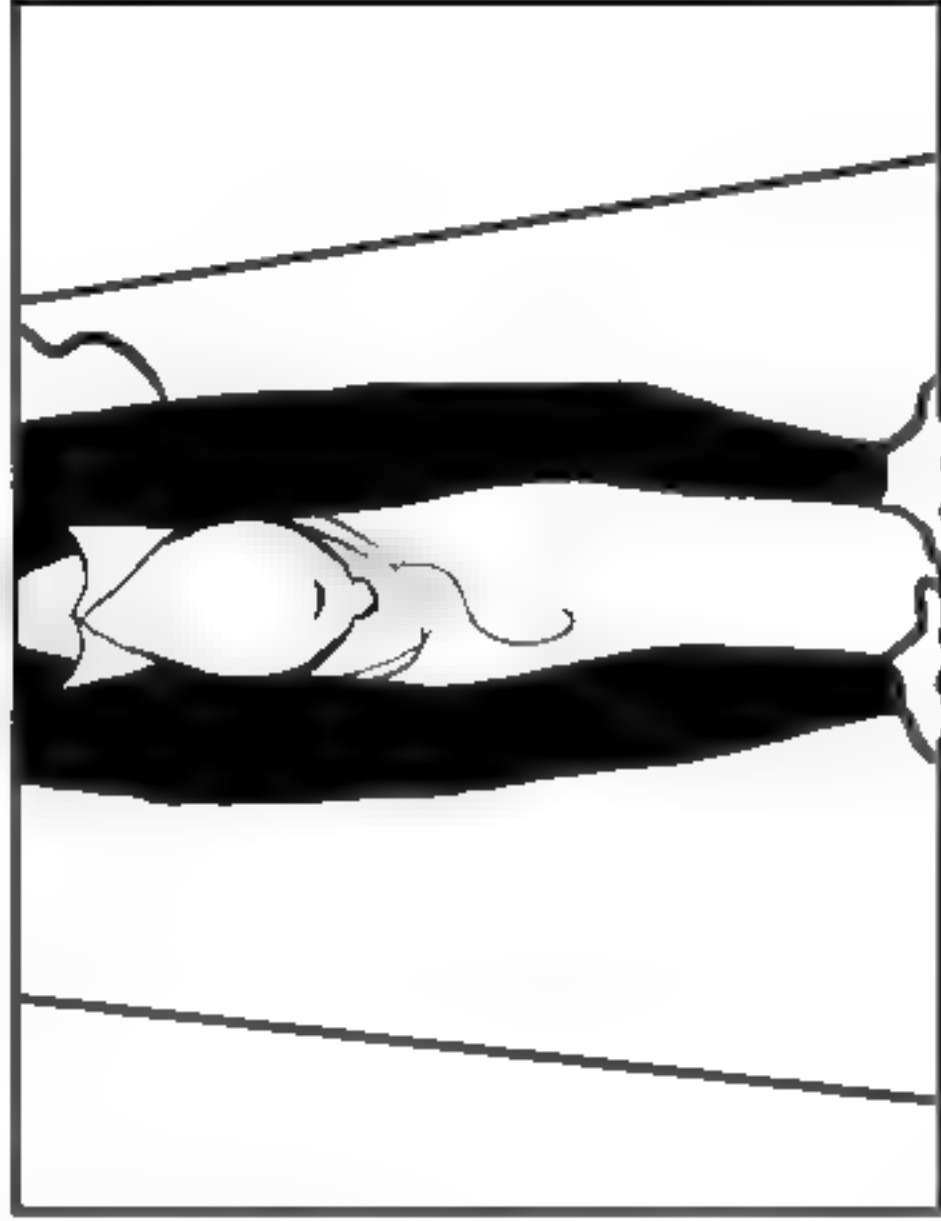
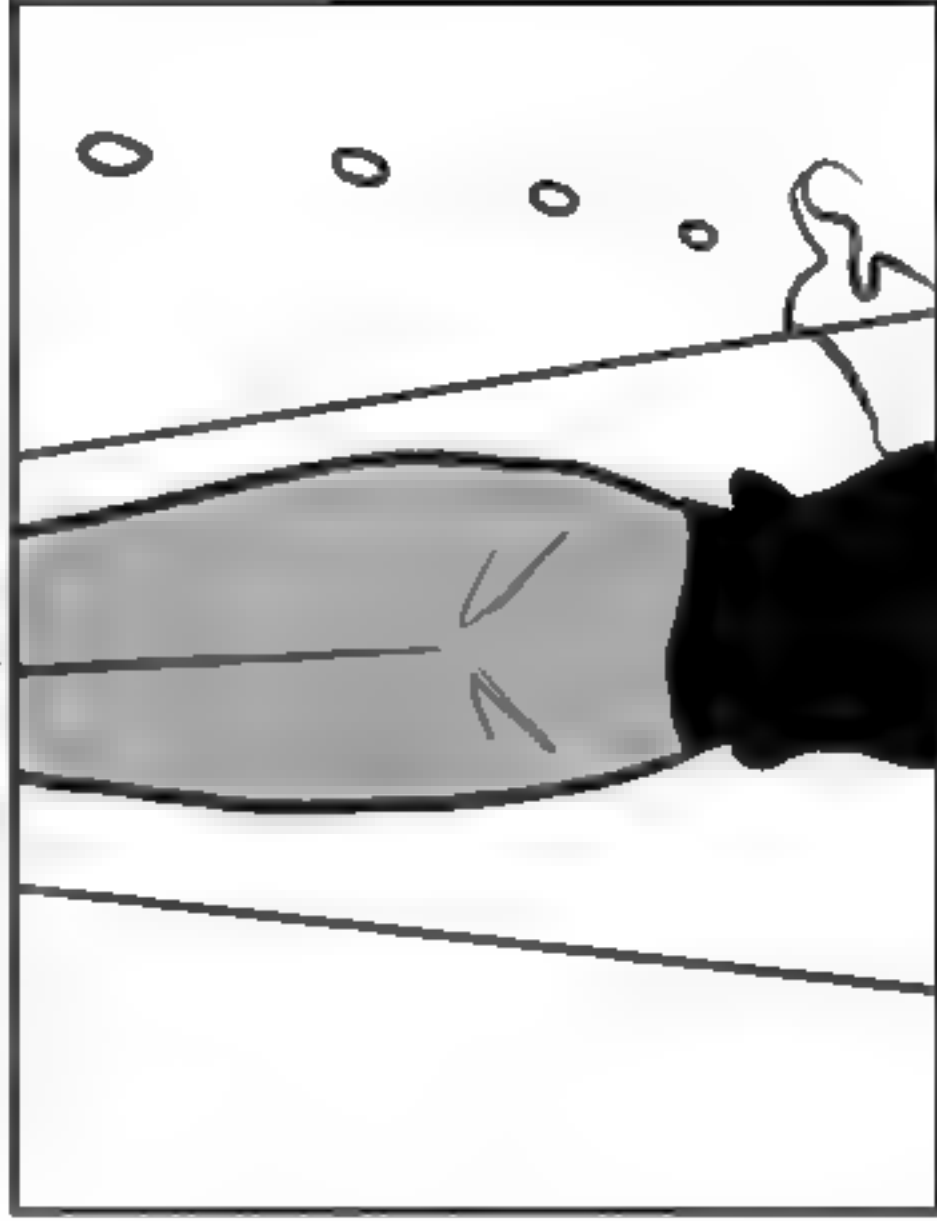


DO YOU HAVE
TO GREET EVERY
IDEA I HAVE WITH
A FETAL POSITION?

Brooke

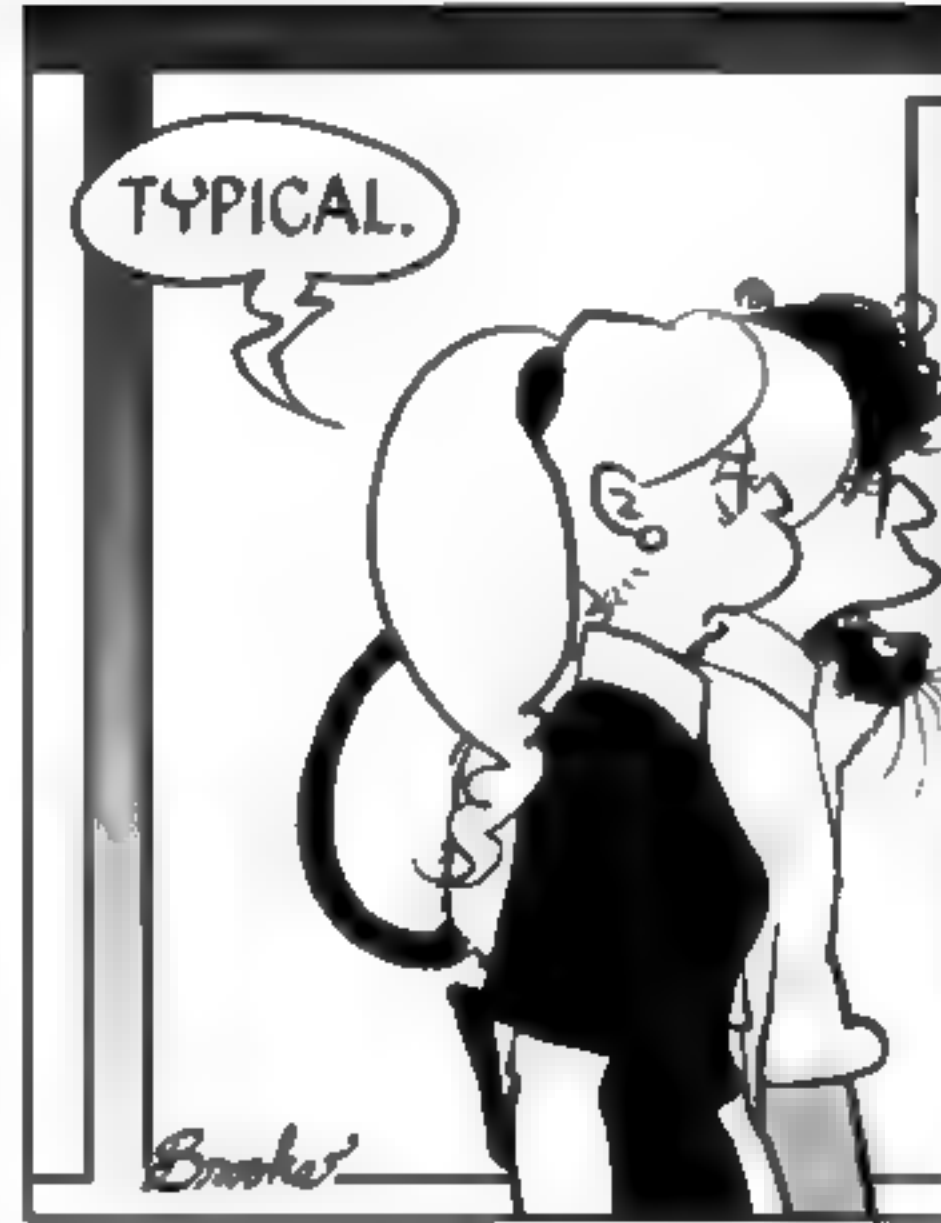


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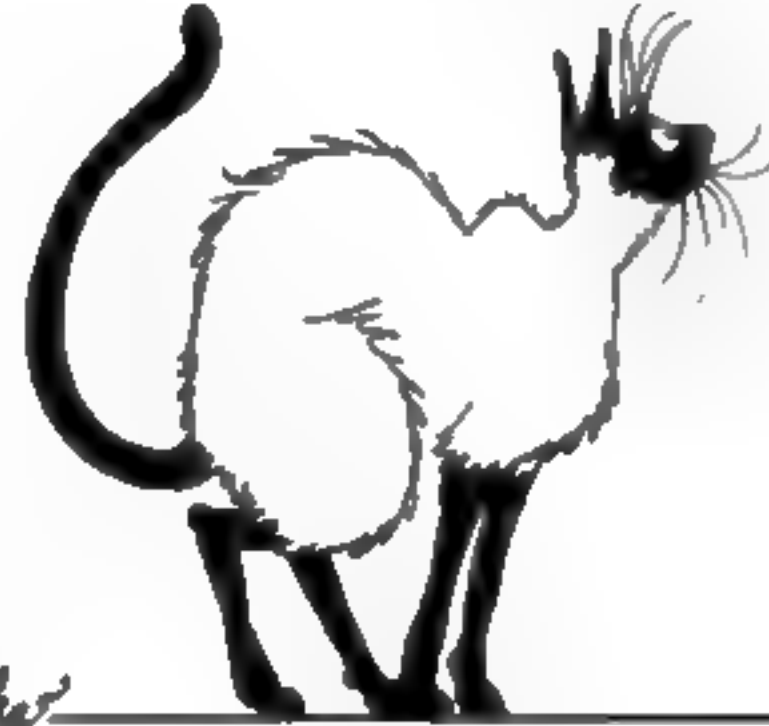




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Brooke



THE
IMPORTANCE
OF NAIL
TRIMS.





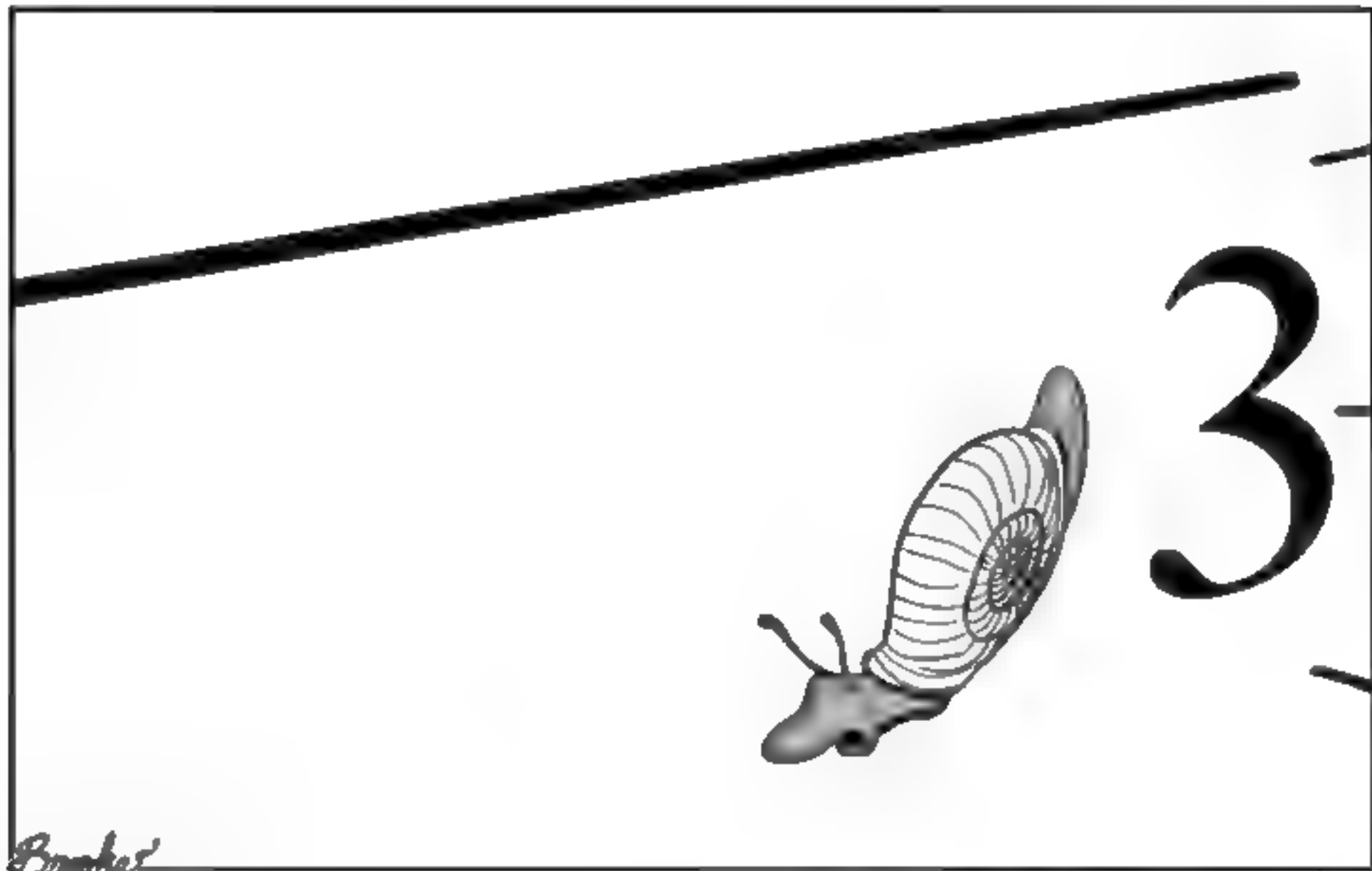
HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 183

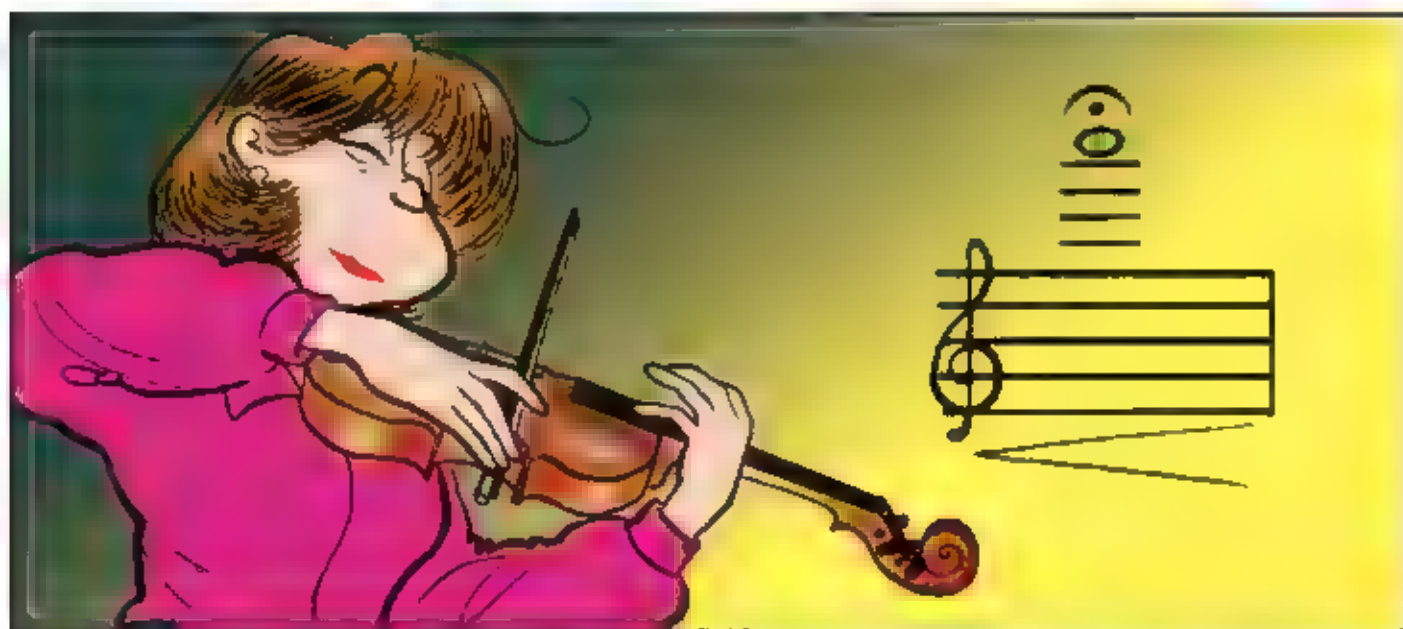


FLAWED
VIGILANCE

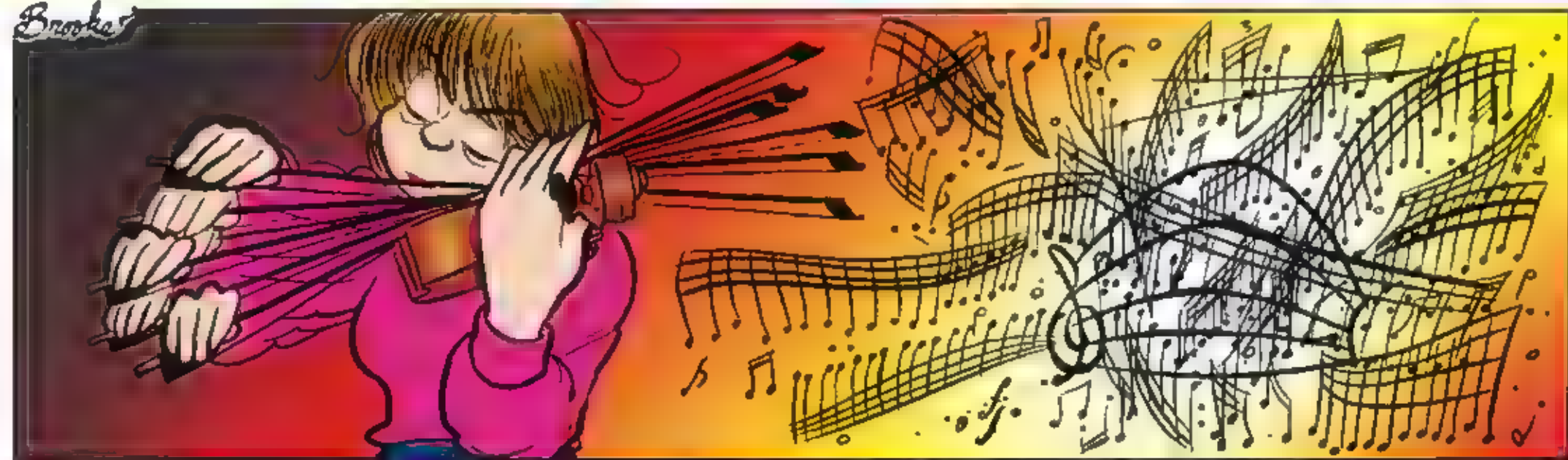
Brooks







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THIS IS A LOVELY BLOUSE
YOU BOUGHT, EDDA. BUT
ISN'T IT JUST A LITTLE
TOO LONG?



DON'T TELL ME IT'S NOT A
BLOUSE AT ALL, BUT A
DRESS FOR THE DANCE.
WHATEVER YOU DO,
AVOID UTTERING
THOSE WORDS!



UM...YES, YOU'RE
QUITE RIGHT.
IT IS RATHER
LONG...FOR A
BLOUSE.



AND PEOPLE SAY
DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY
COMMUNICATION DOESN'T
WORK.



DO YOU THINK
THIS DRESS IS
A MITE SHORT?



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OH, HONEY, WHEN I WAS
YOUR AGE I WORE SHORT
DRESSES ALL THE
TIME. I LOVED
THEM AND THEY
LOOKED GREAT.



AND EVERY SECOND YOU
STAND THERE, HOLDING THAT
MICROSCOPIC GARMENT,
I'M MORPHING INTO MY
MOTHER...GET OUT OF
MY SIGHT! AS GOD
IS MY WITNESS,
RUN!



YOU CALL
THAT A DRESS?
...I'VE SEEN
MORE CASING
ON A SAUSAGE.



DON'T BE
ANTE-
DELUVIAN,
MOTHER.

MOM AND GRAN ACT AS IF
THIS DRESS IS TOO SHORT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?



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YOU STAND THERE HOLDING
A FROCK THAT WOULD
OVERWHELM ANY NORMAL
MALE AND LEAVE HIM
ETERNALLY BESOTTED WITH
YOUR LISSOME BEAUTY...
...AND YOU ASK IF IT'S
EXCESSIVE?



AS I RECALL,
YOU ARE MALE.



OH...RIGHT.
COME TO THINK
OF IT, THE
DRESS IS JUST
PERFECT.





HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 184



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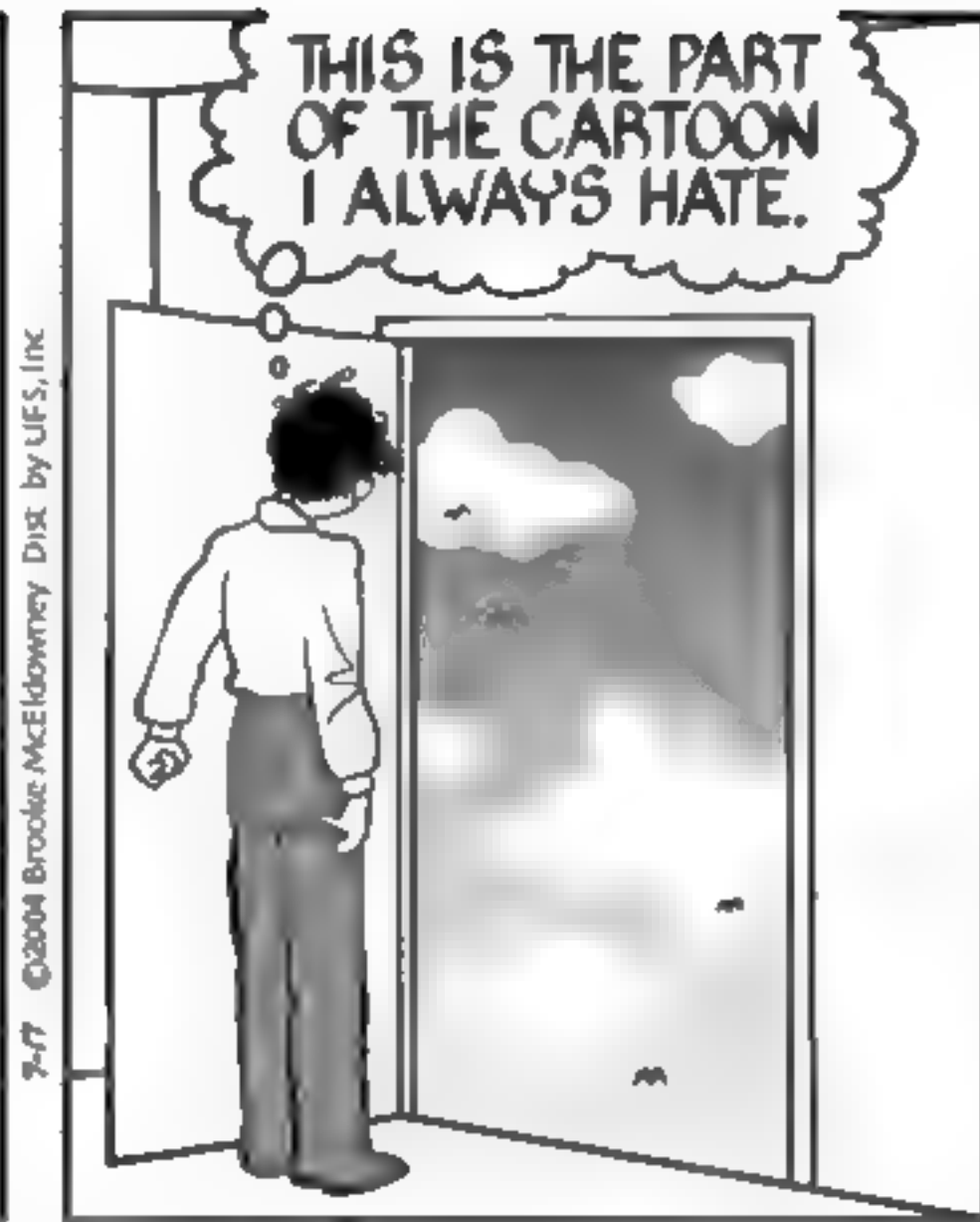
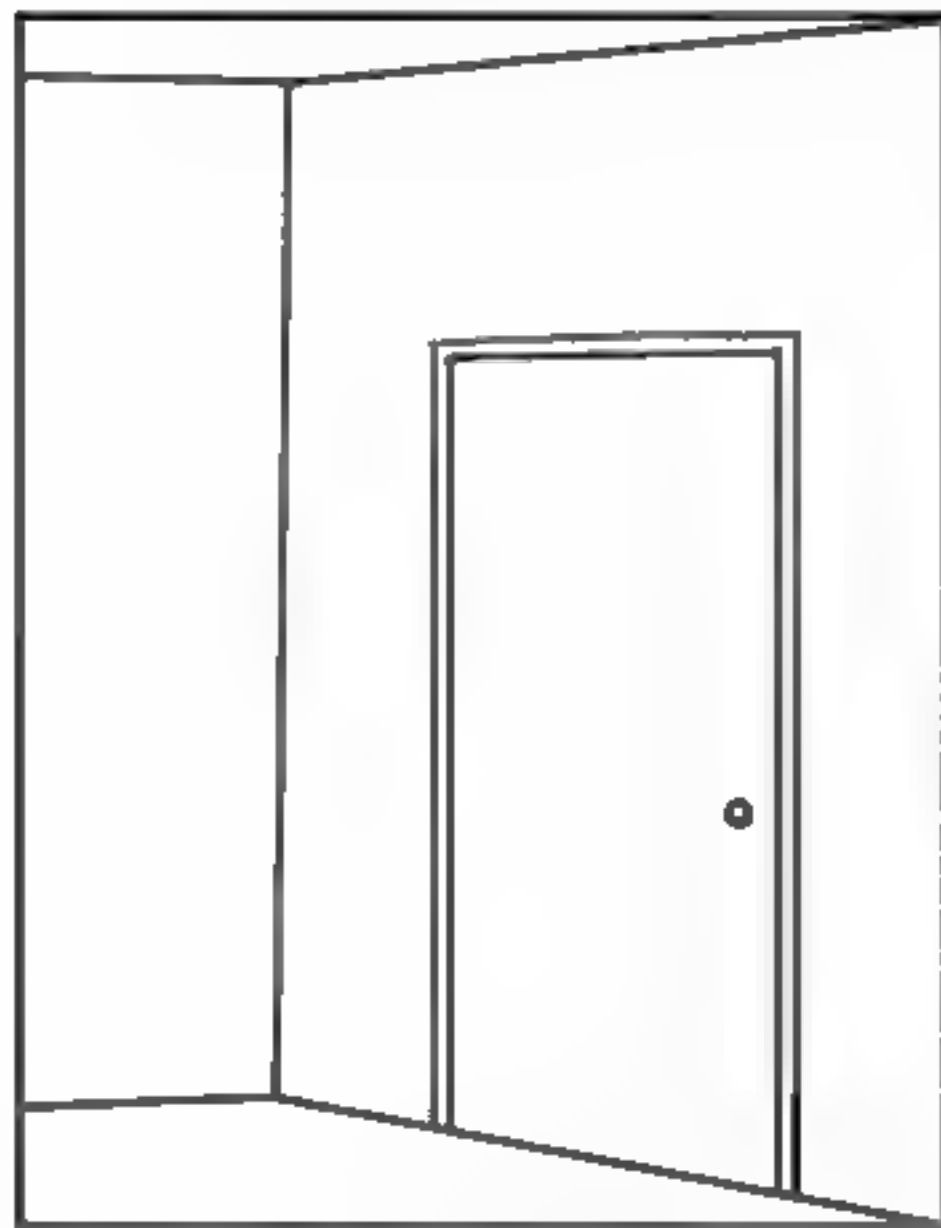
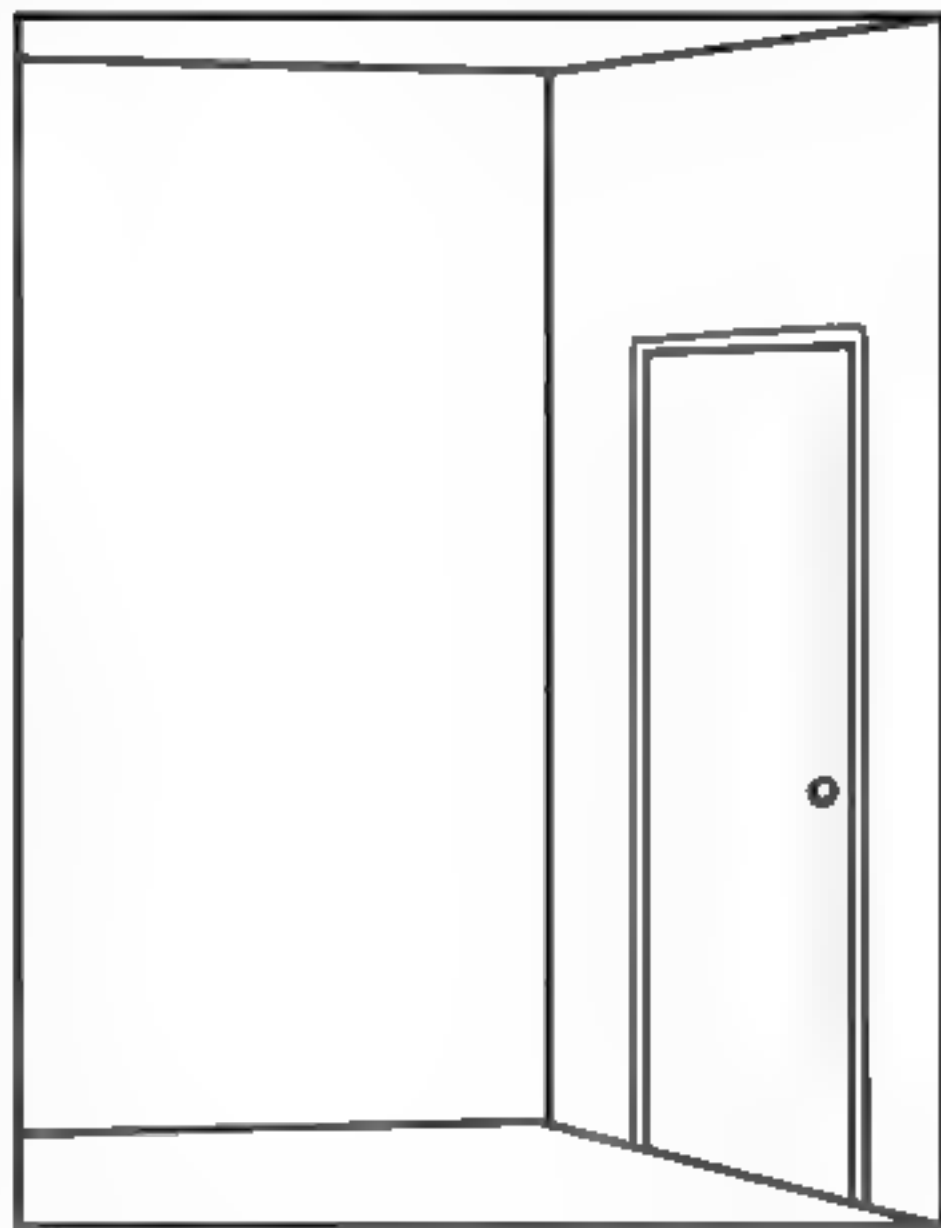
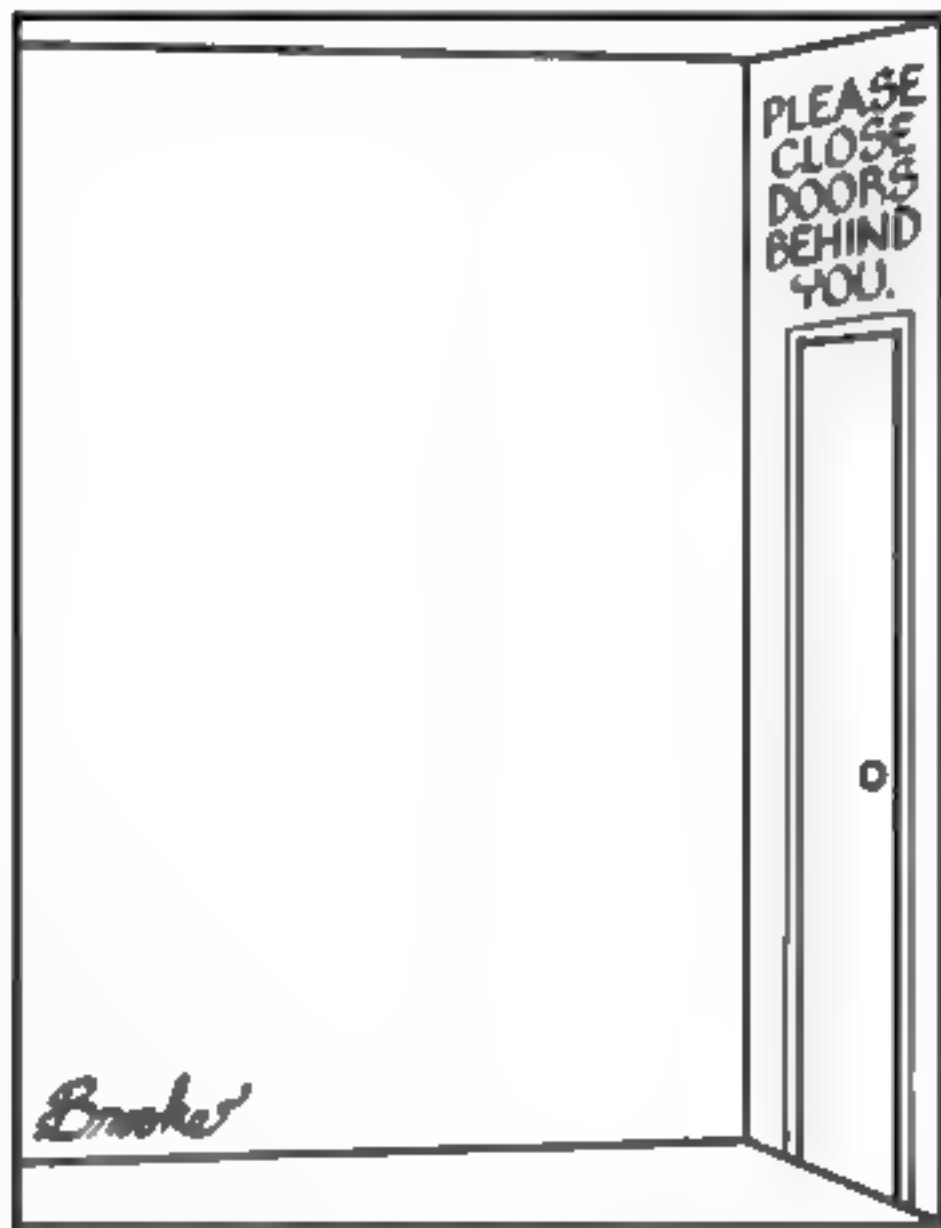


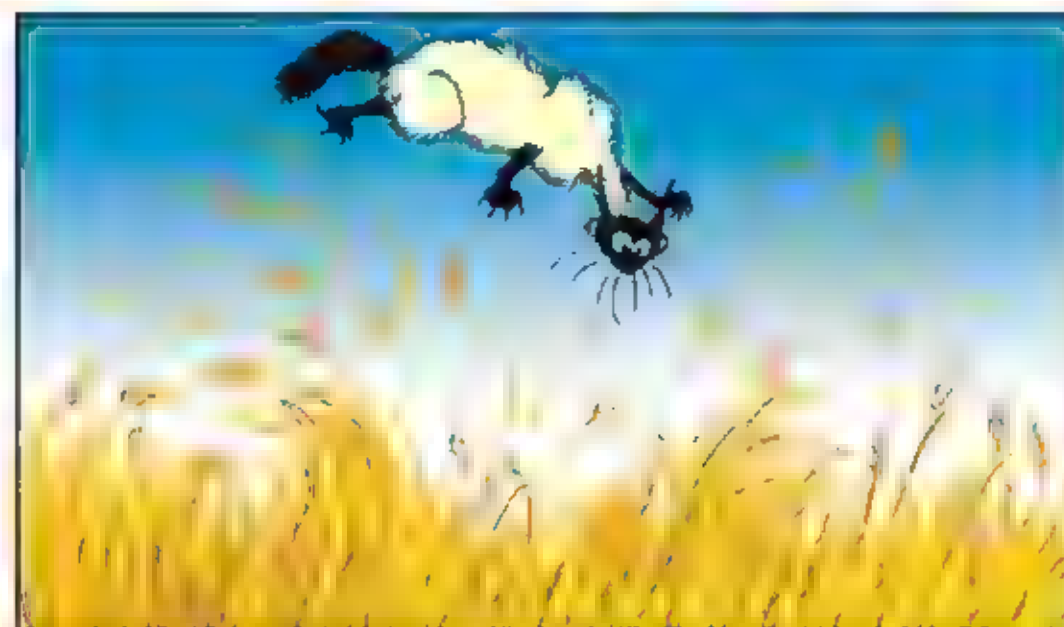
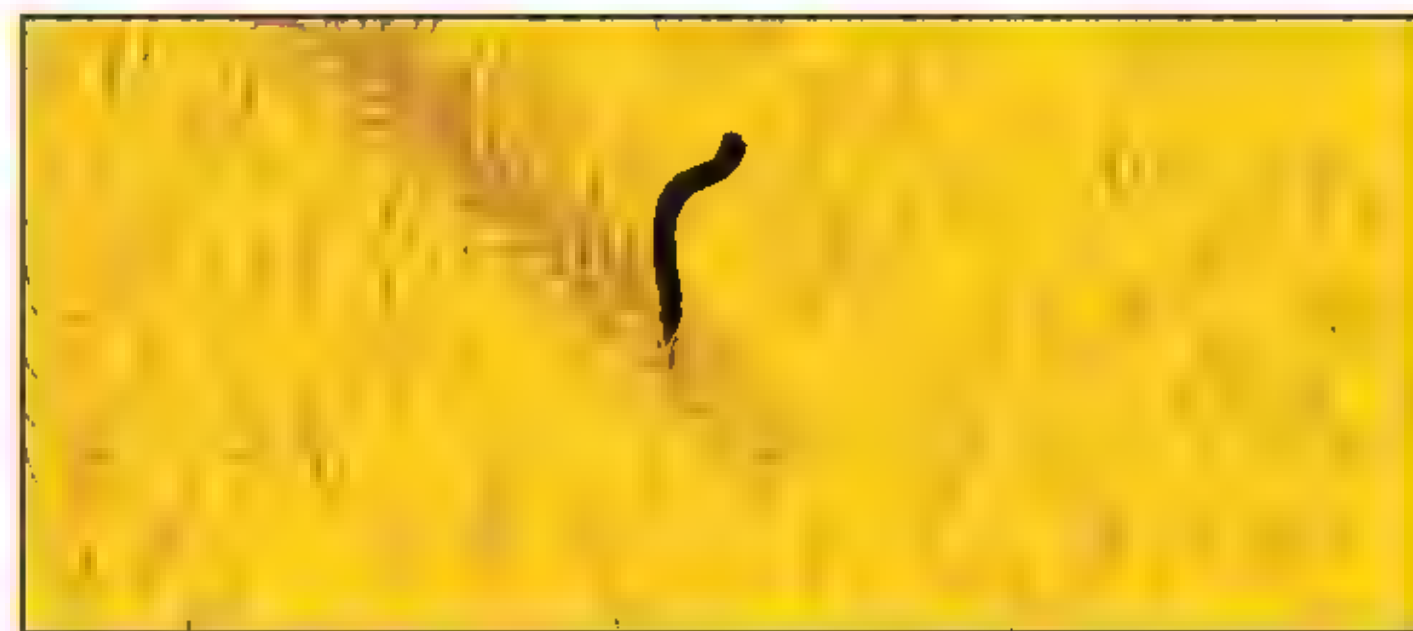
Brooke



COMING IN
UNDER THE
RADAR



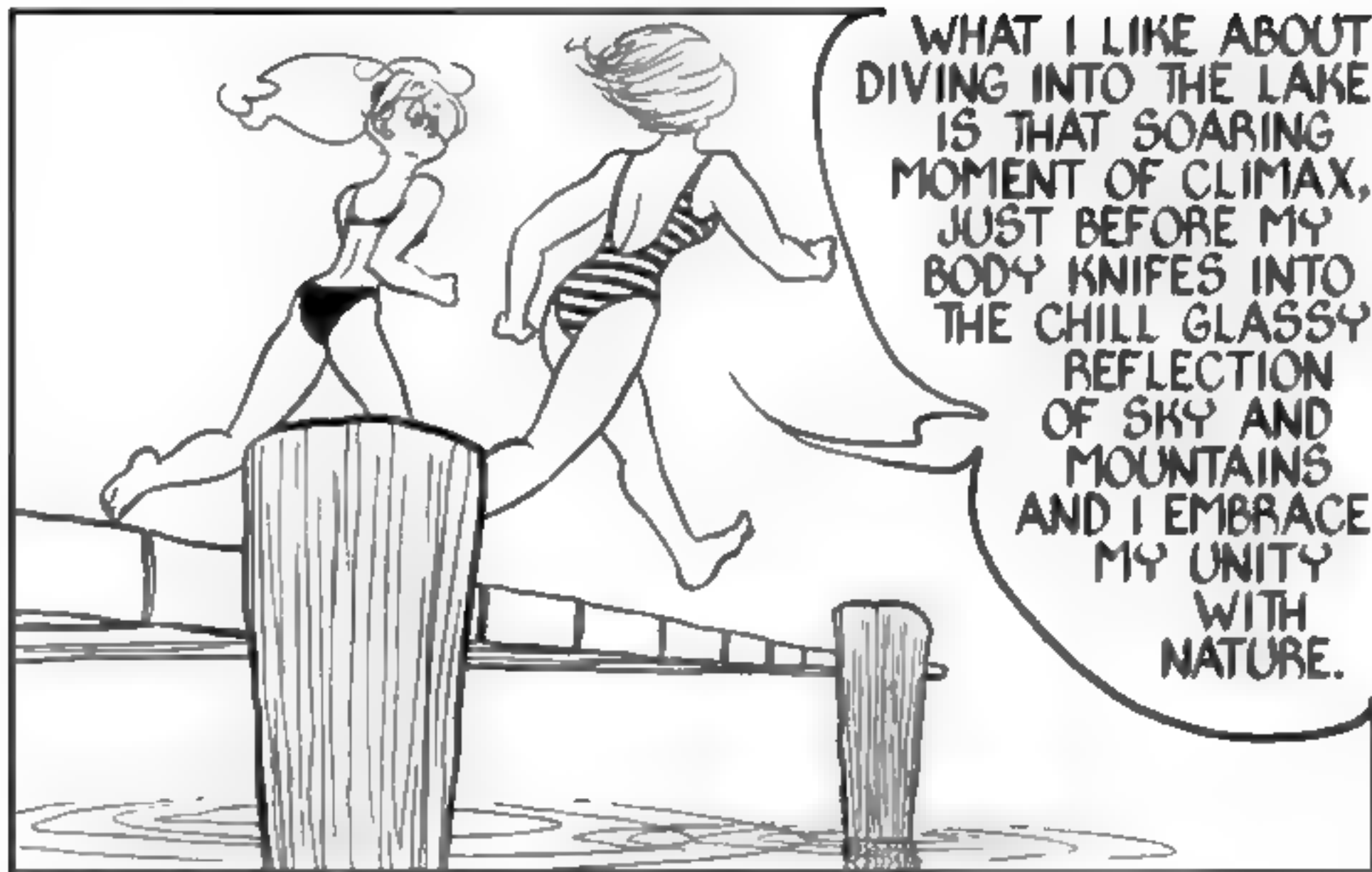




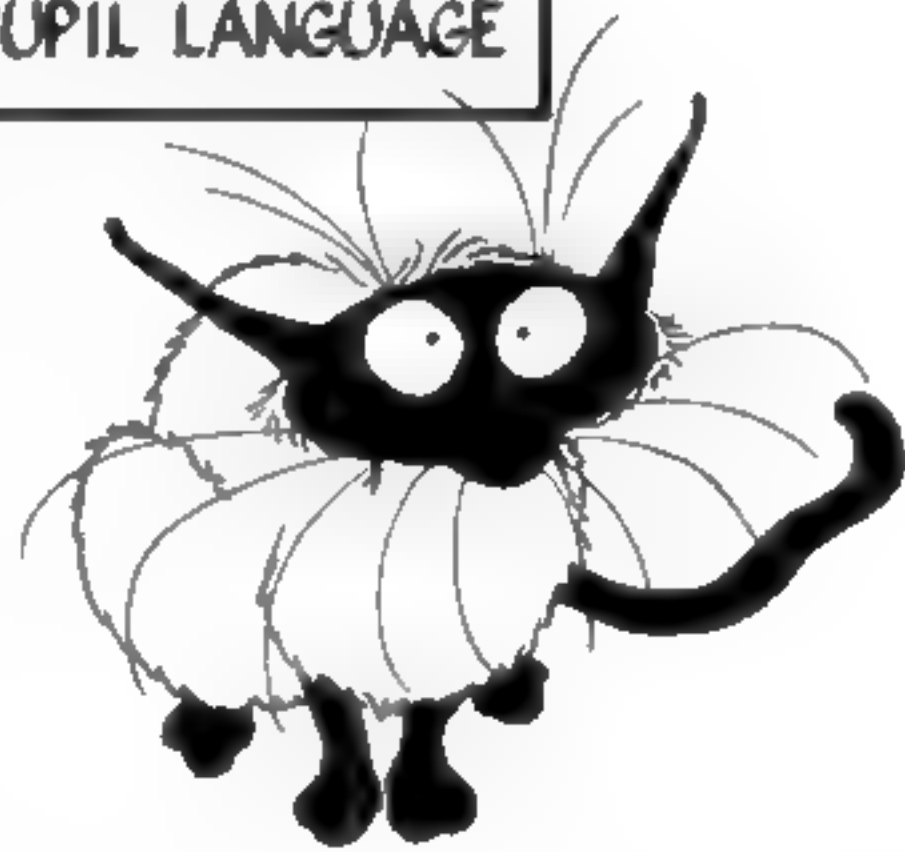
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CAT-SNAKE
INTERFACE

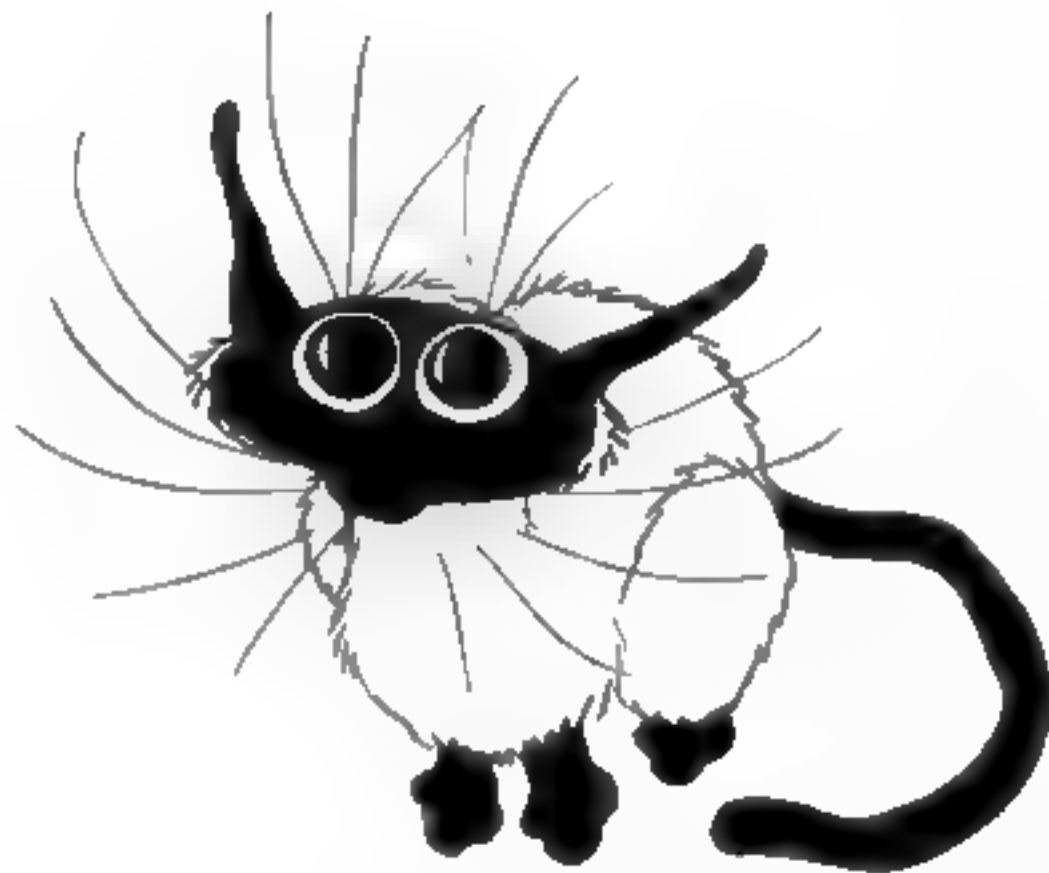


HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 185:
PUPIL LANGUAGE

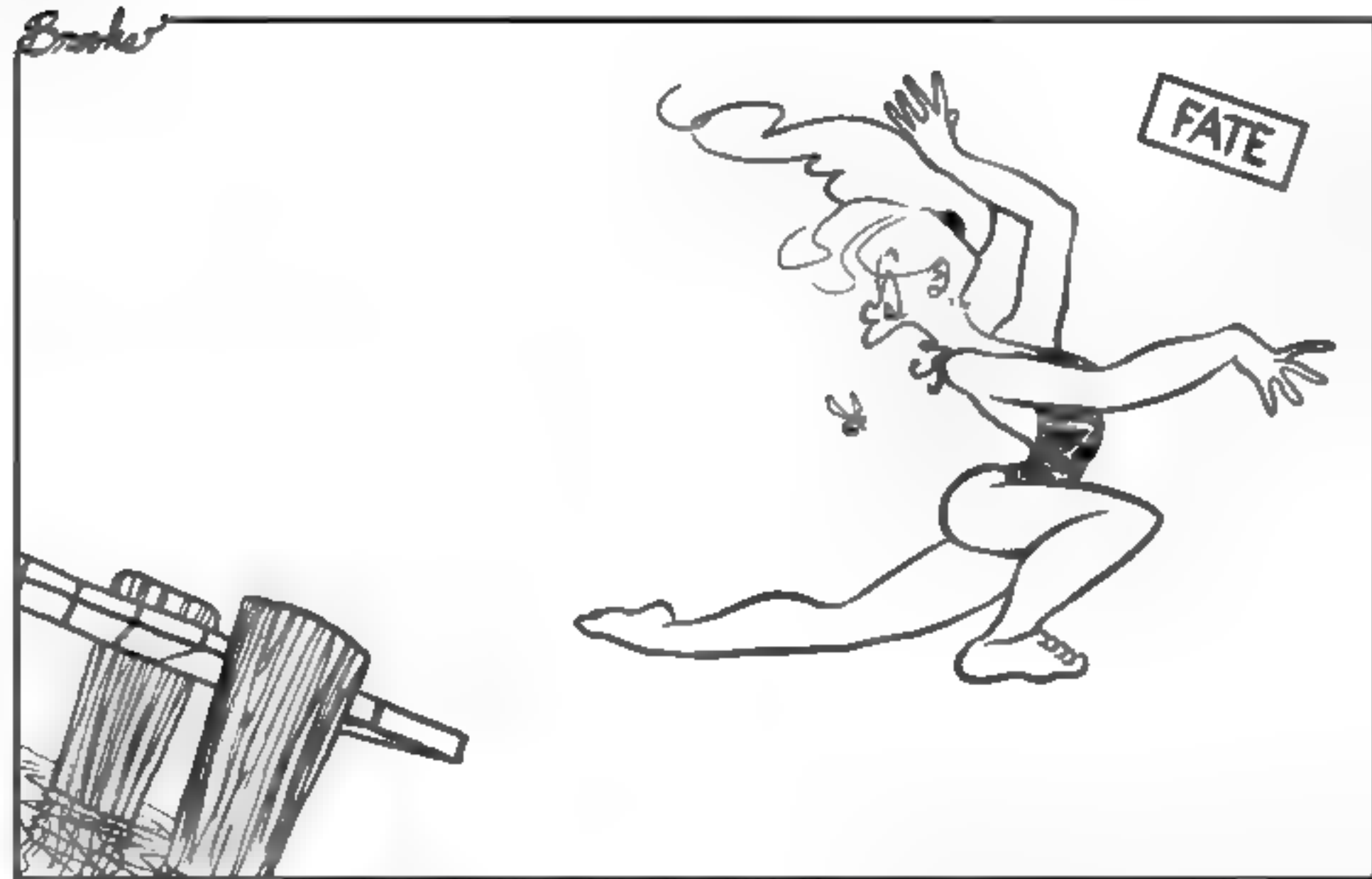
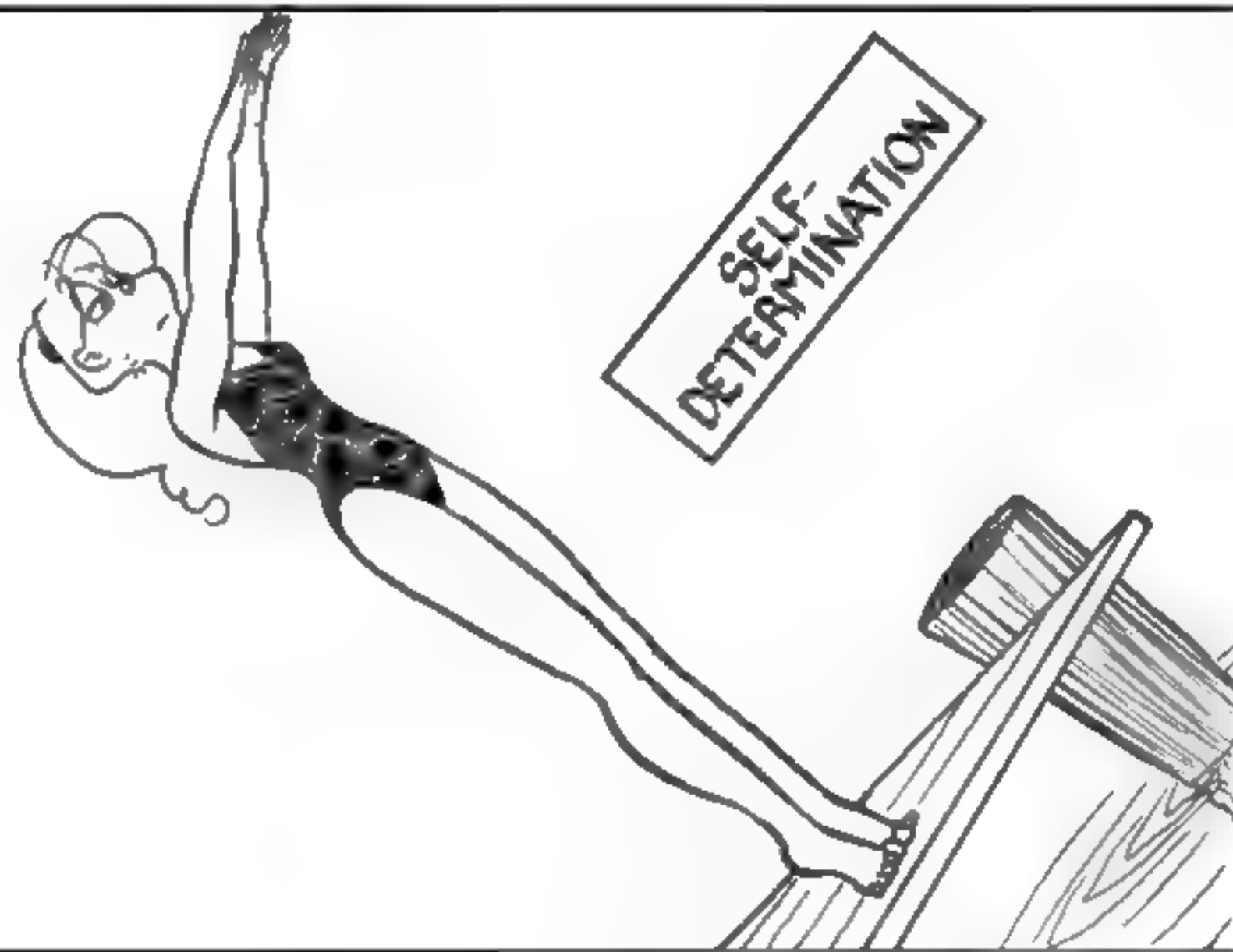


I LOVE,
ADORE AND
WORSHIP
YOU WITH
A WHITE-HOT
INTENSITY
BEYOND REASON,
BEYOND
UNDERSTANDING,
BEYOND
LIFE'S VERY
LONGING
FOR
ITSELF!

YOU ARE
GODZILLA.
...AND I DON'T
MEAN ANY OF
THOSE RETREAD
GODZILLAS...
...I MEAN THE ORIGINAL
GODZILLA WITH ALL
THE REALLY CHEAP
PRODUCTION VALUES
AND PAPIER-MÂCHÉ
MOUNTAINS AND
RAYMOND BURR
BEFORE HE WAS
PERRY MASON.



Brooke





IT MUST BE A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'RE CURBING ILLEGAL HUNTING AROUND HERE.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

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I WAS JUST SPECULATING AS TO HOW MANY TELESCOPIC SIGHTS ARE BEING EMPLOYED AT THIS MOMENT TO LOOK AT YOU INSTEAD OF GAME.



THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO READ MY COPY OF "MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT," JUST ASK.



Brooke

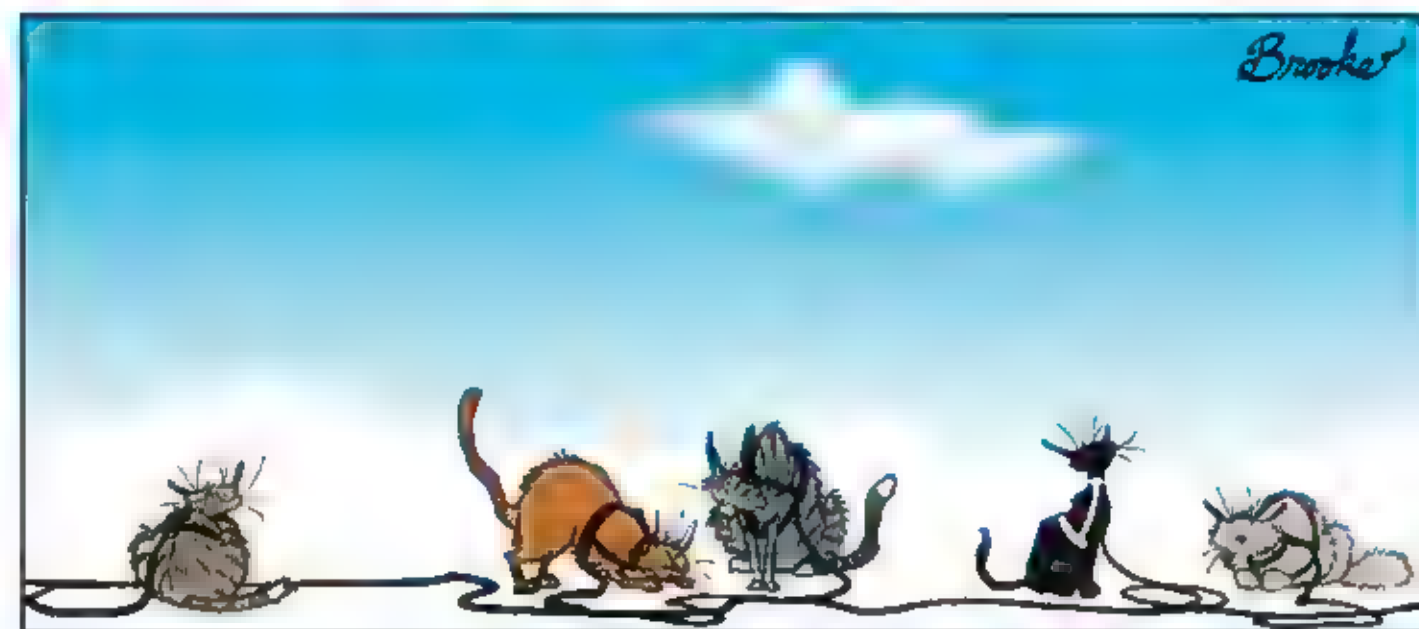
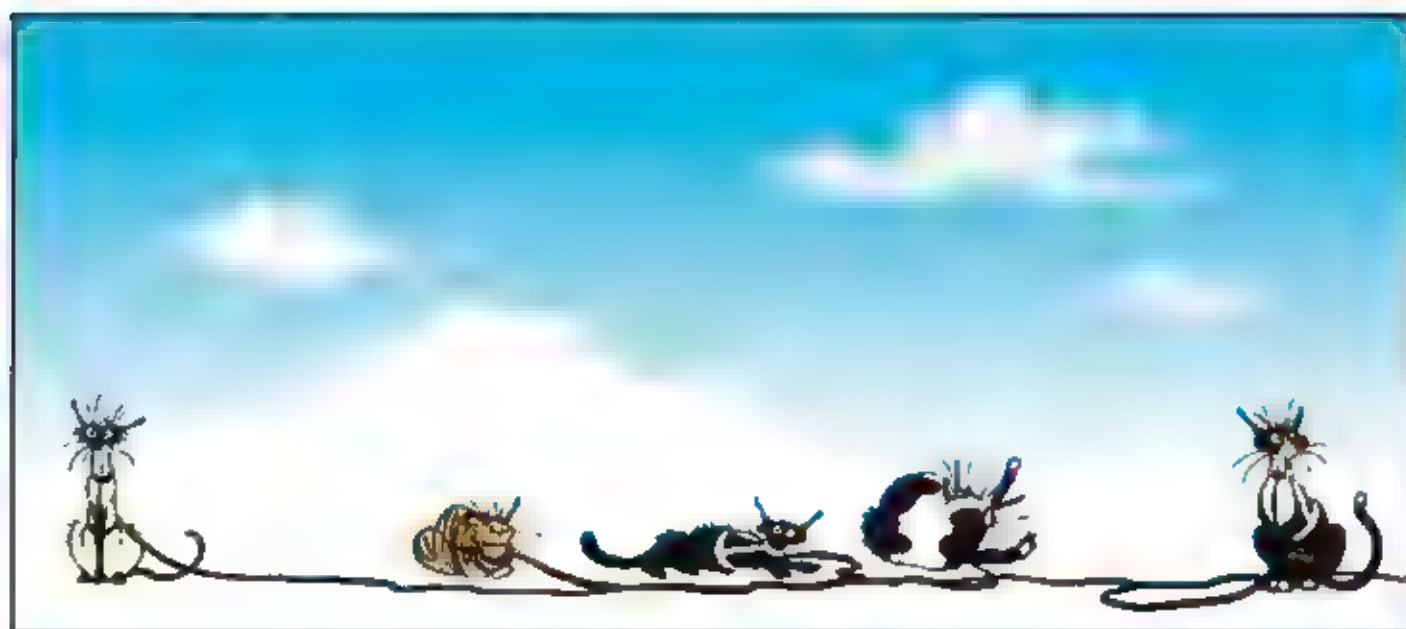
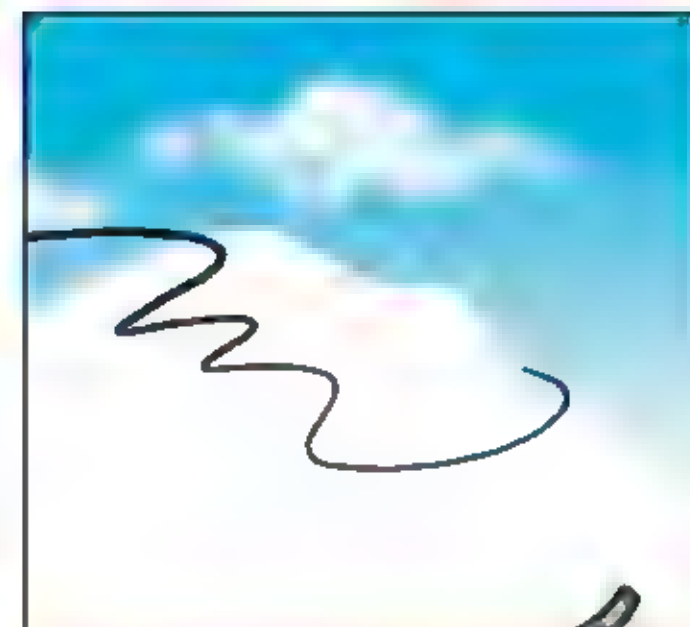
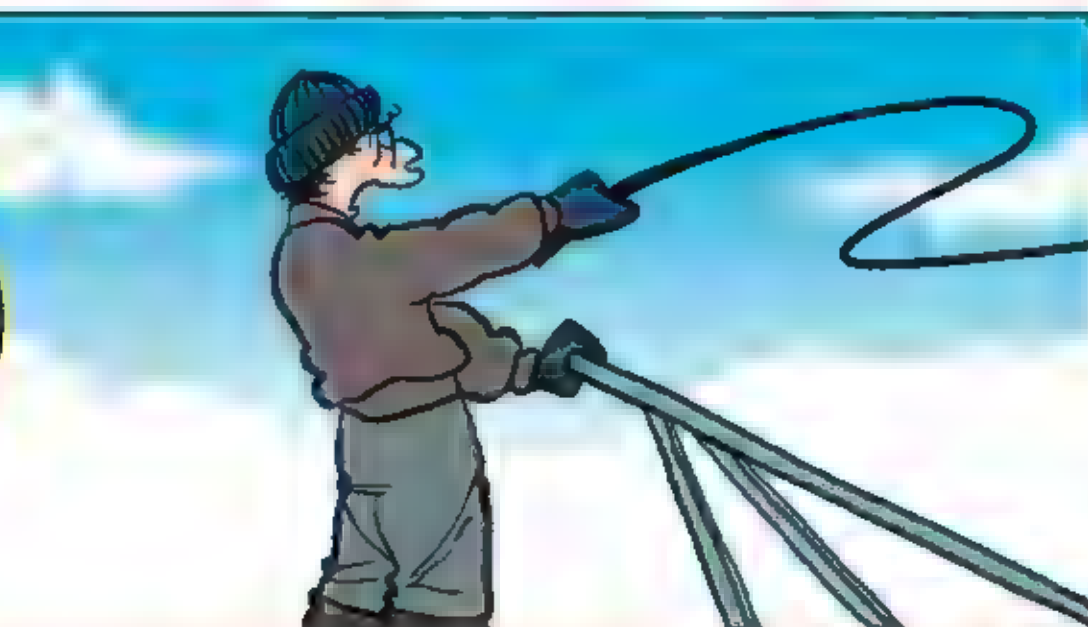
IT'S MARY...SHE GOT
CAUGHT IN A CLOUDBURST
ACROSS TOWN.



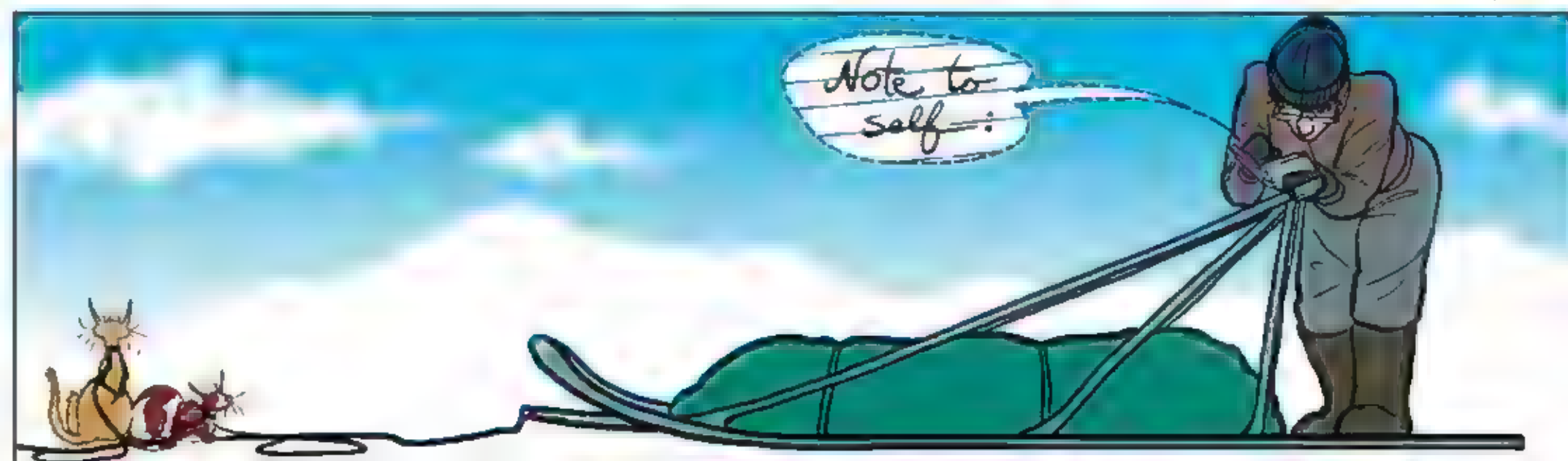
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YOU MUST BE
SOAKING.





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COMMUNION
WITH FLOWERS



Brooke



COMMUNION
WITH FLOWERS

JUST STAY STILL AND
BLEND IN. I'LL SUMMON
THE MOTHER SHIP AND
EFFECT YOUR ESCAPE TO
ONE OF THE TWIN MOONS
OF HECATE SEVEN.



COMMUNION
WITH FLOWERS

Brooke



OH, SURE, YOU LOOK NICE AND SMELL BEAUTIFUL,
BUT THE MOMENT MY BACK IS TURNED YOU'LL
BE LETTING SOMEONE ELSE SMELL YOU, AND
I'LL FEEL CHEATED AND USED,
AND I'M NOT GOING
THROUGH *THAT*
AGAIN!



COMMUNION
WITH FLOWERS



Brooke

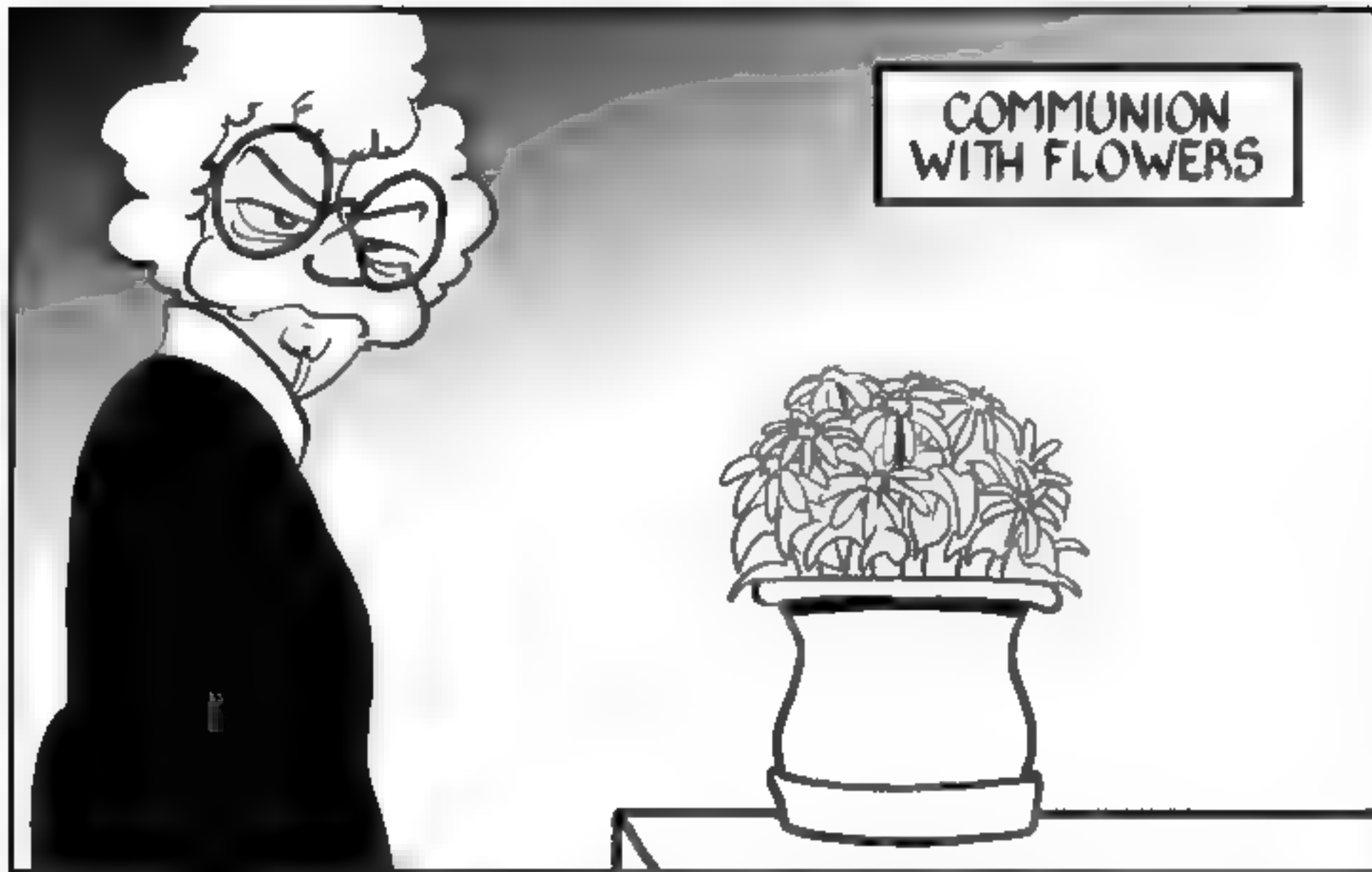
COMMUNION
WITH FLOWERS

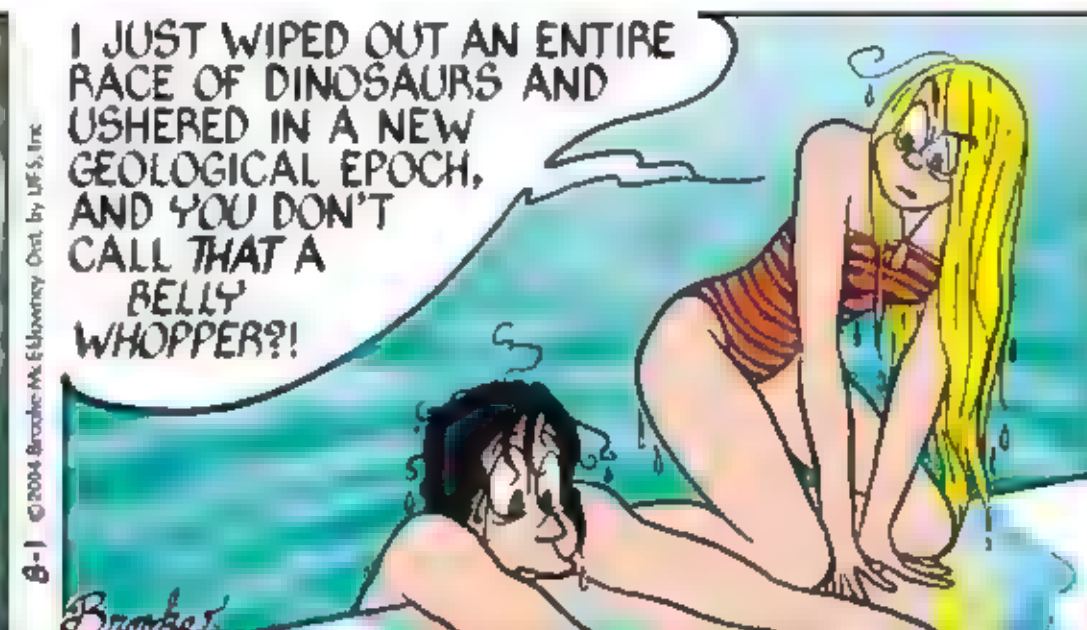
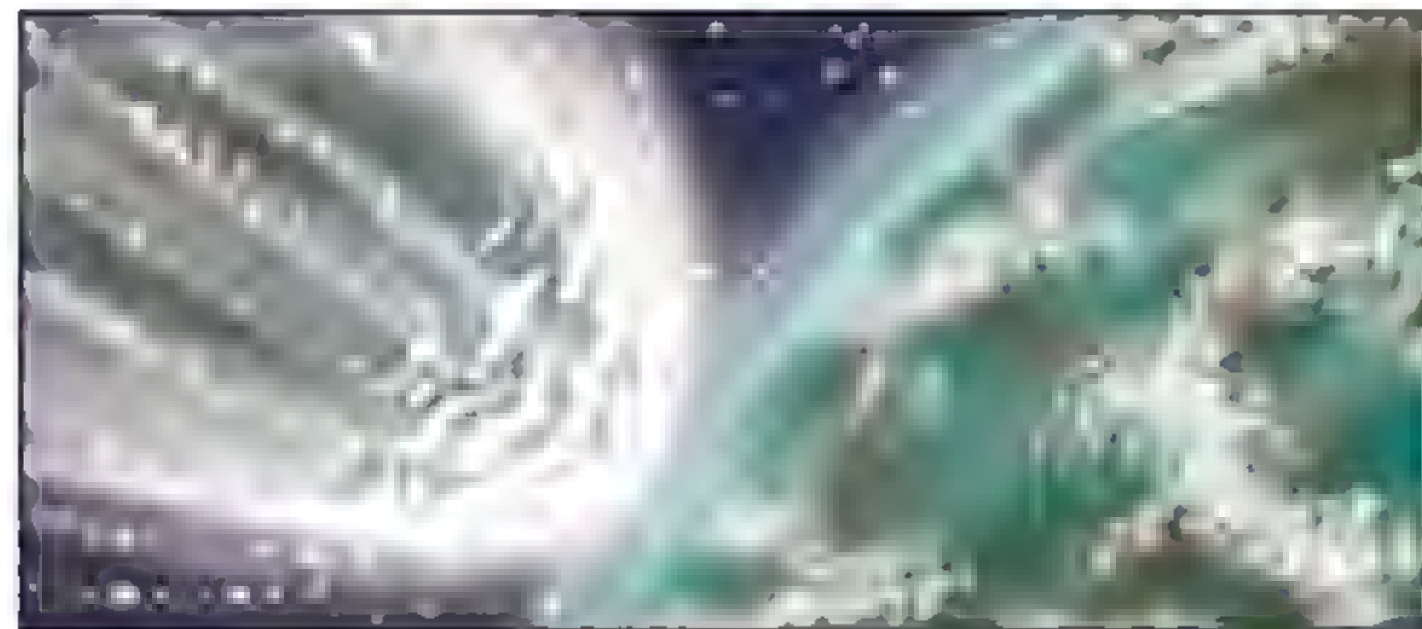


GOOD MORNING,
FLOWERS.
I TRUST I FIND
YOU IN GOOD
FETTLE, THAT
YOUR SOIL IS
ADEQUATELY
WATERED AND
THAT THE SUN
AROSE TO
YOUR COMPLETE
SATISFACTION.
NOW FOR TODAY'S
HEADLINES...



Brooke







IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE MOST AWKWARD MOMENT IS AT THE END OF A DATE, WHEN A BOY WANTS TO STEAL A KISS.

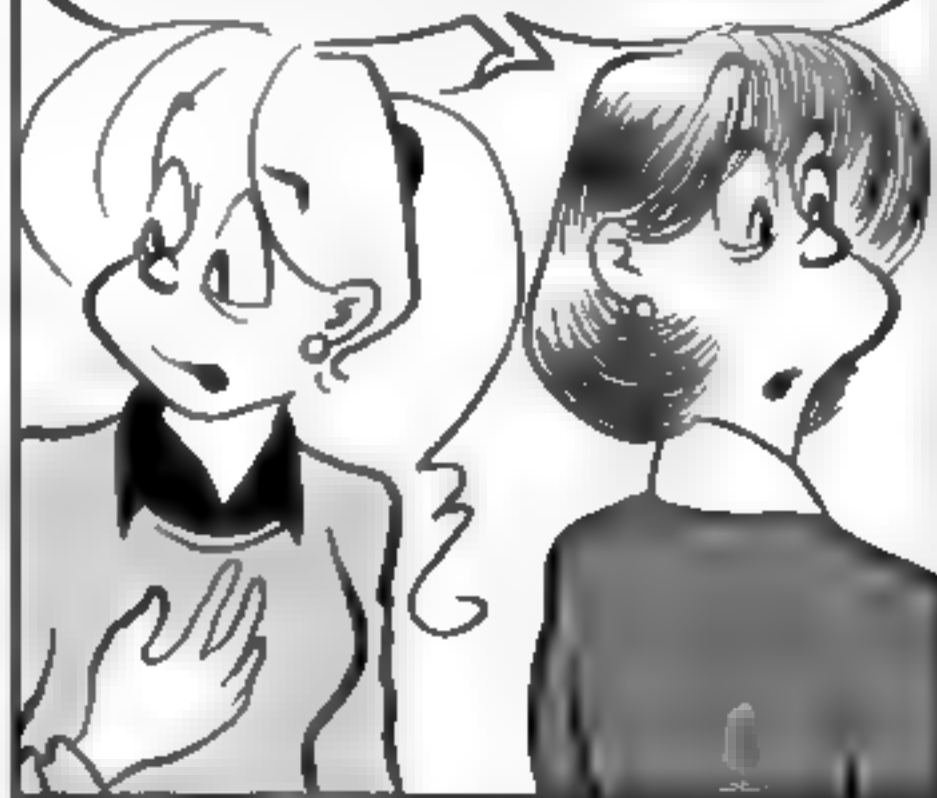
A KISS?! HAH! PETTY THEFT!



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YOU KNOW THAT LOOK?... WHEN YOU BLAB SOMETHING TOO REVEALING ABOUT YOUR DATING LIFE, AND YOU FIND YOURSELF STARING INTO GRAN'S STEELY GAZE?



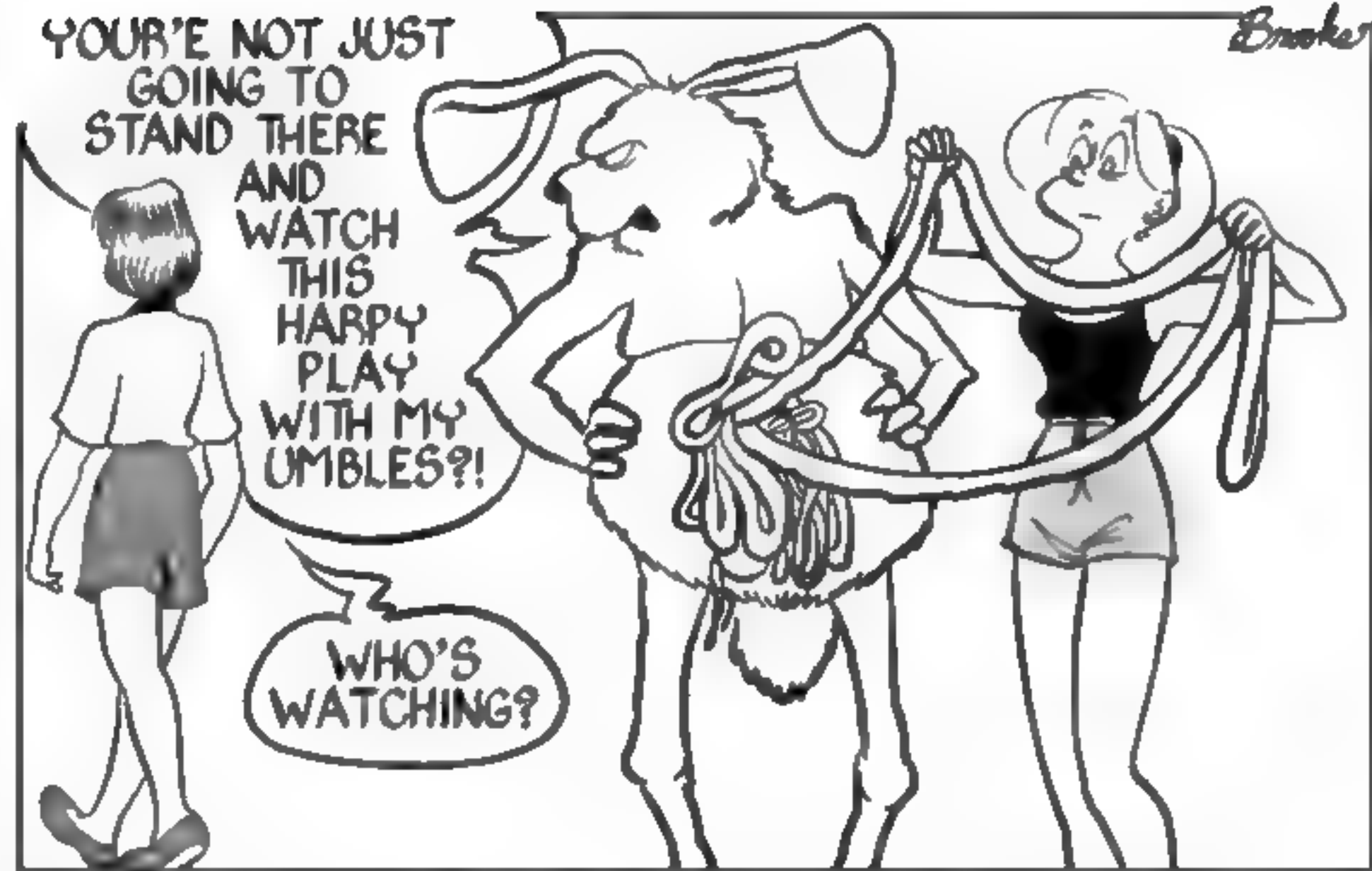
8-3



YOU MEAN, F'RINSTANCE, LIKE THIS?



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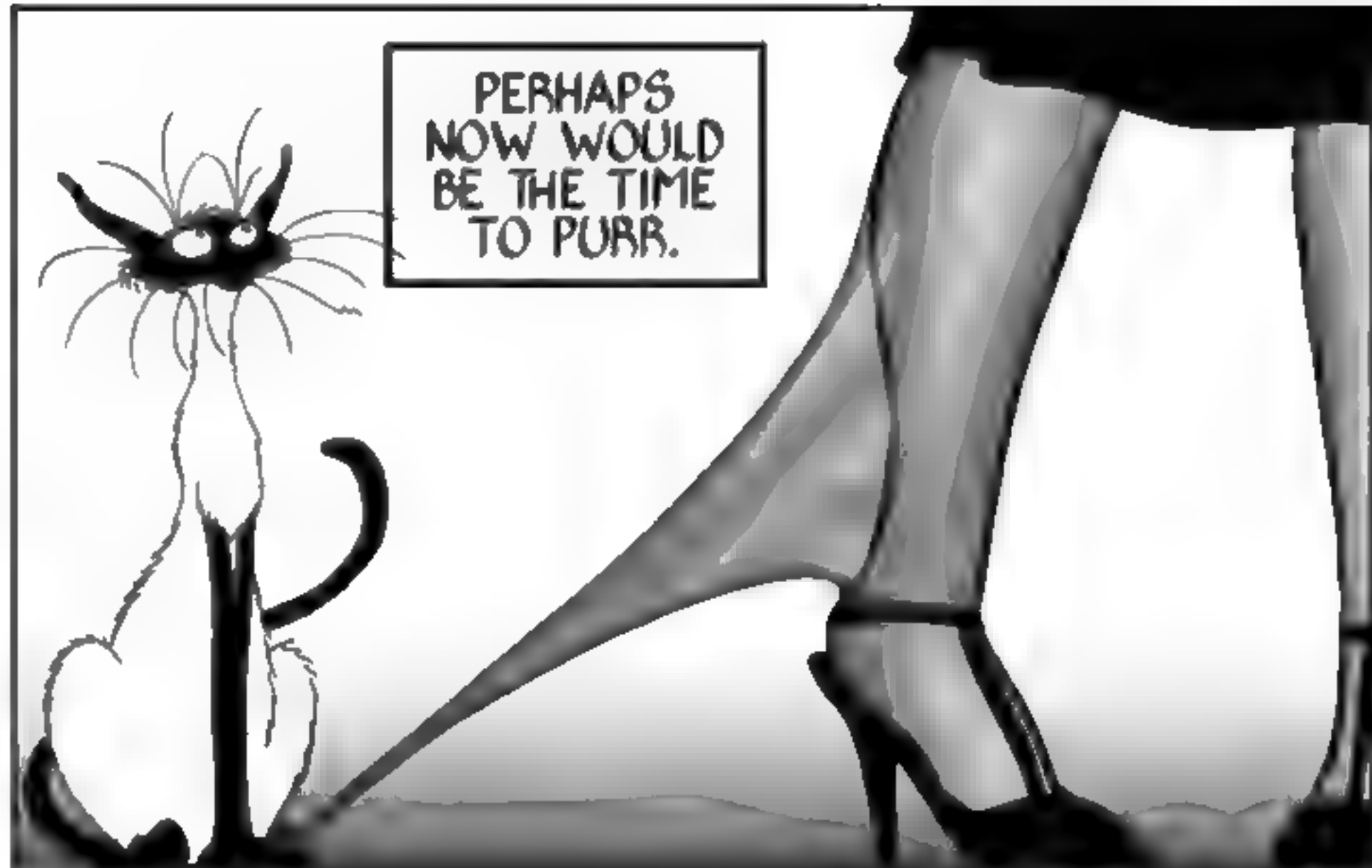
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TURN OFF
THE ENGINE...
...I'M GOING
TO BE A FEW
MINUTES.



PERHAPS
NOW WOULD
BE THE TIME
TO PURR.





HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 186

ANTI-AIRCRAFT

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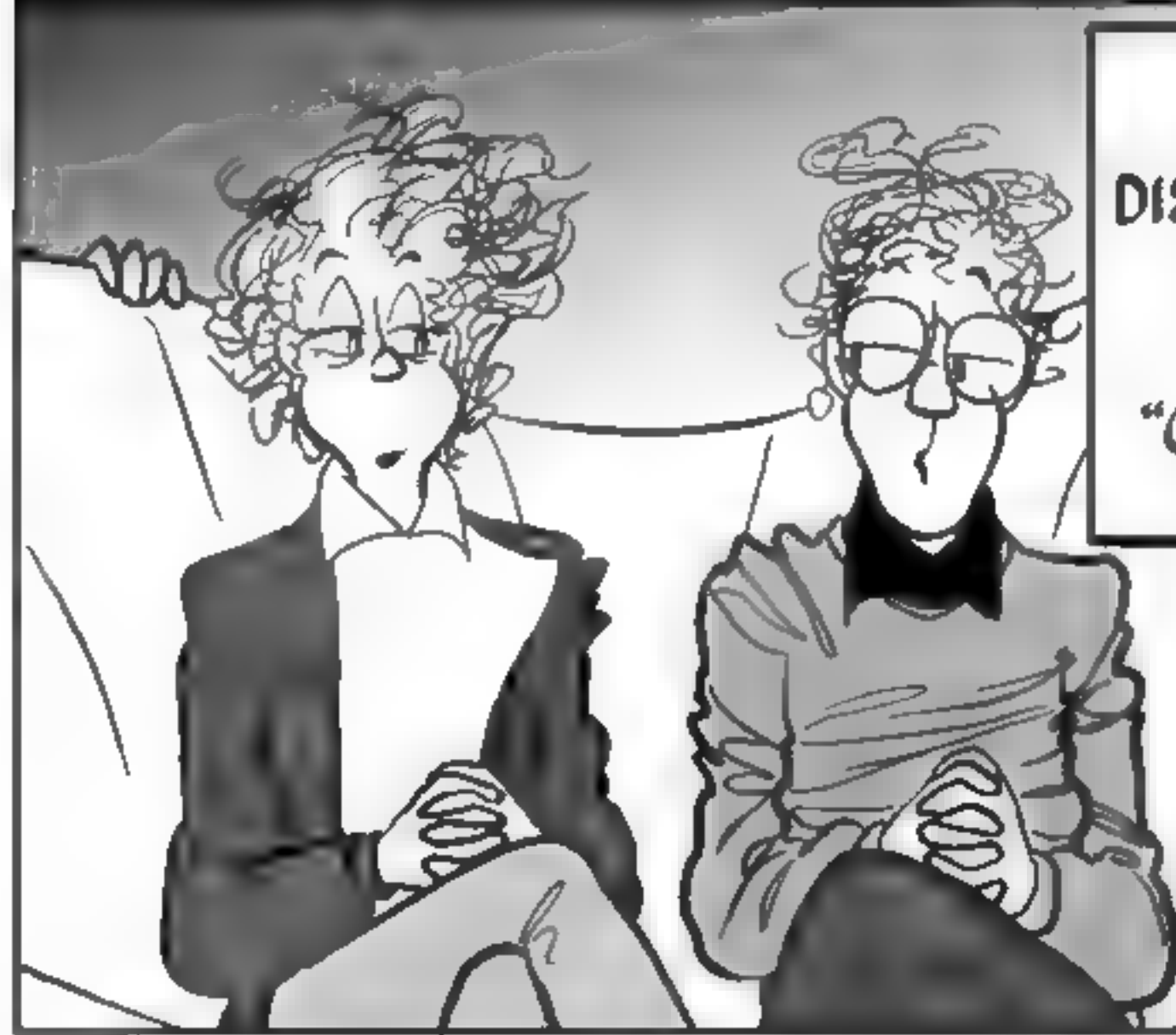
8-8

Broderick

WHAT IS LOVE?



TWO PEOPLE
WITH
DISHEVELED HAIR
FEIGNING
IMMERSION
IN A
"GREEN ACRES"
MARATHON

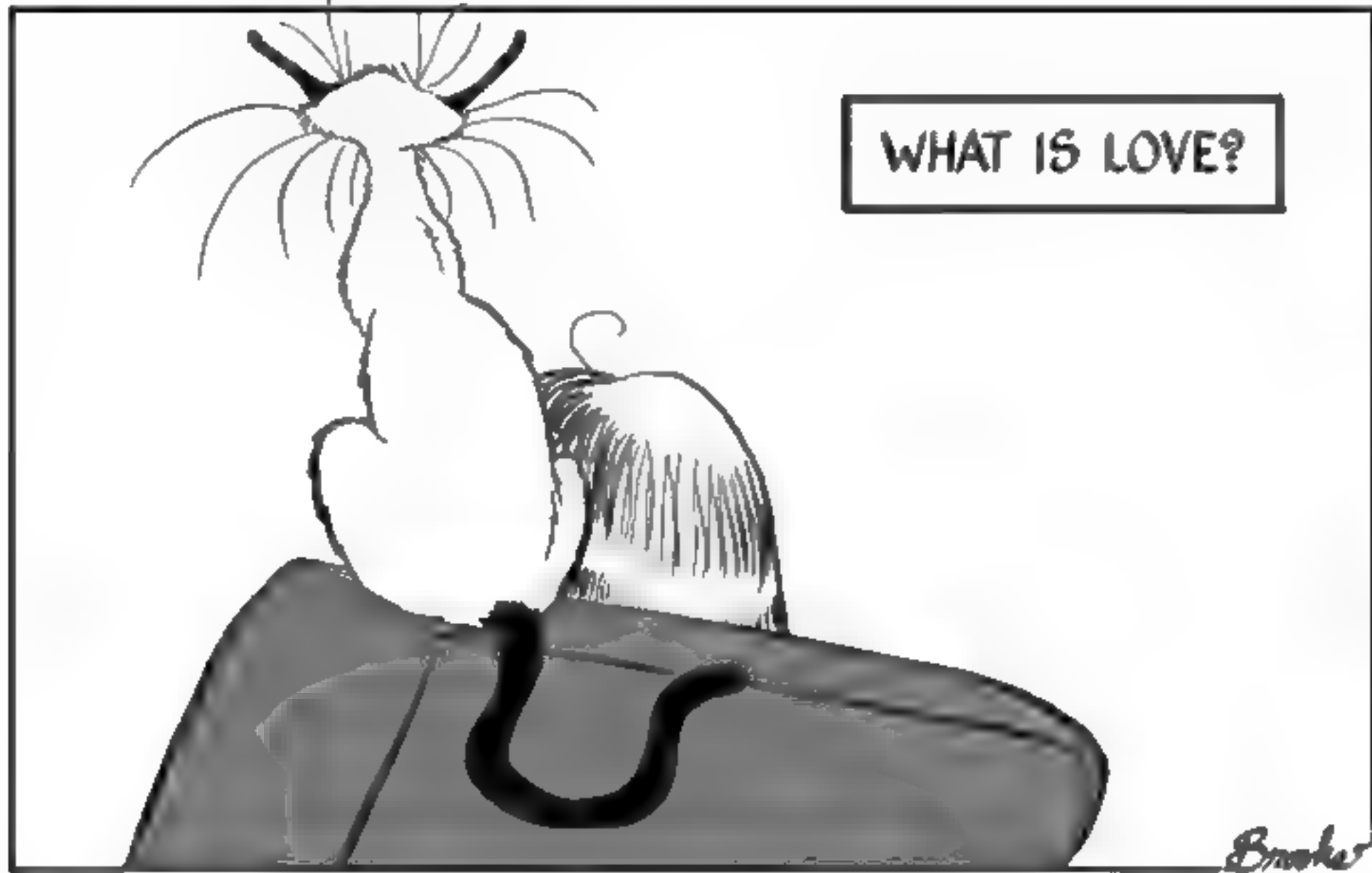


WHAT IS LOVE?

A MAN
MAKING
A FASHION
STATEMENT...

...AND THE WOMAN
WHO HOLDS HIS ARM
ANYWAY.

Broder



WHAT IS LOVE?

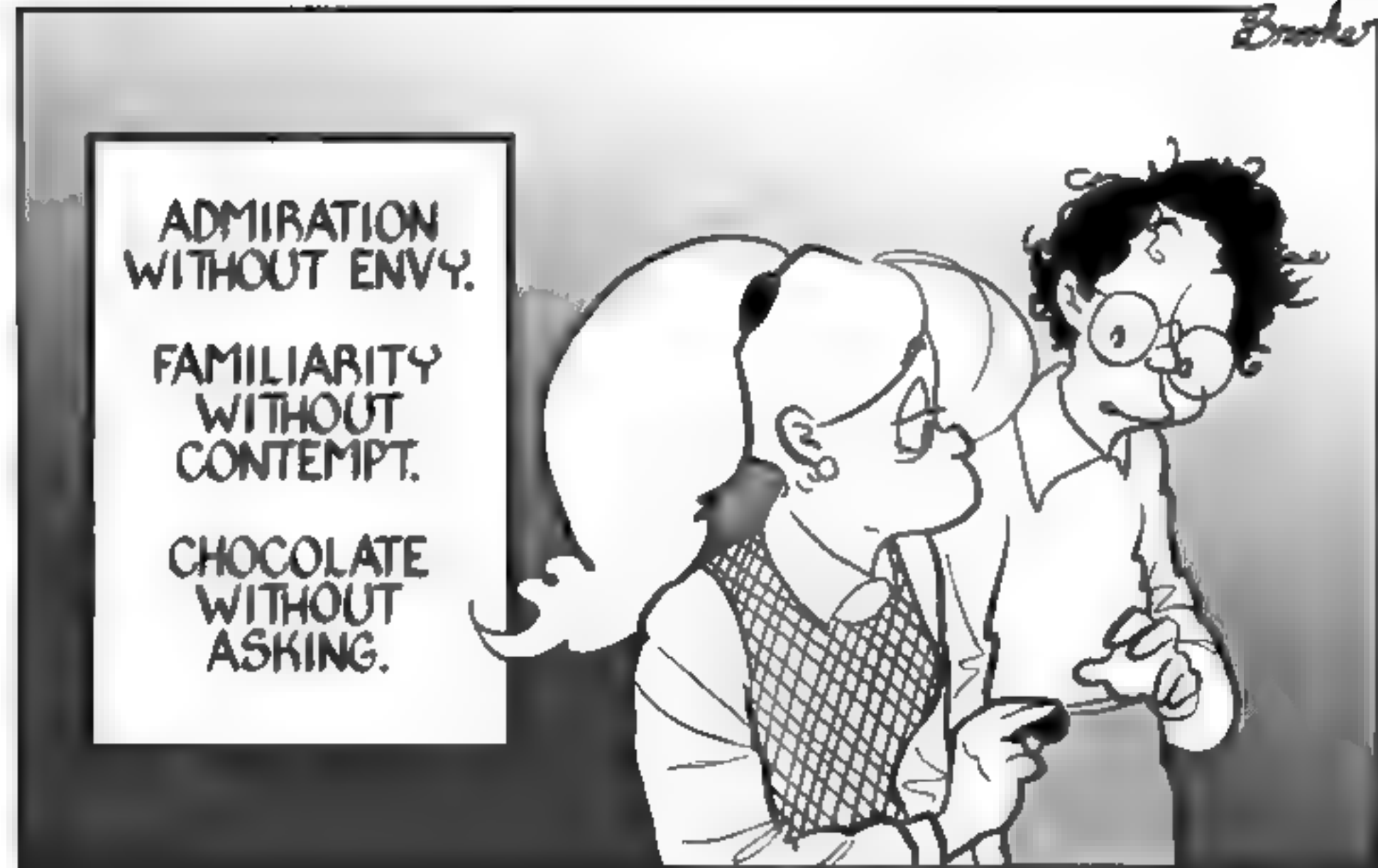


SIN.



CLARK
GABLE
AND
CLAUDETTE
COLBERT
IN
"IT HAPPENED
ONE NIGHT."

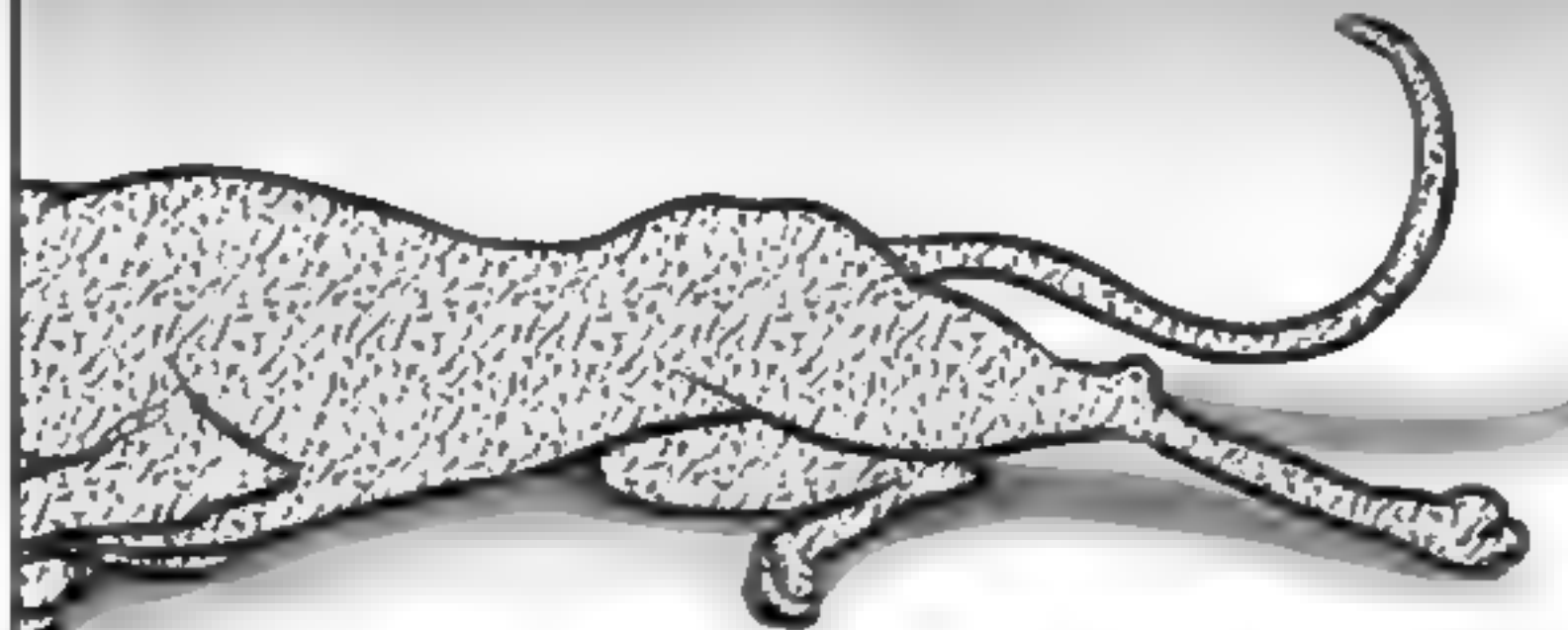
Brooke



WHAT IS LOVE?

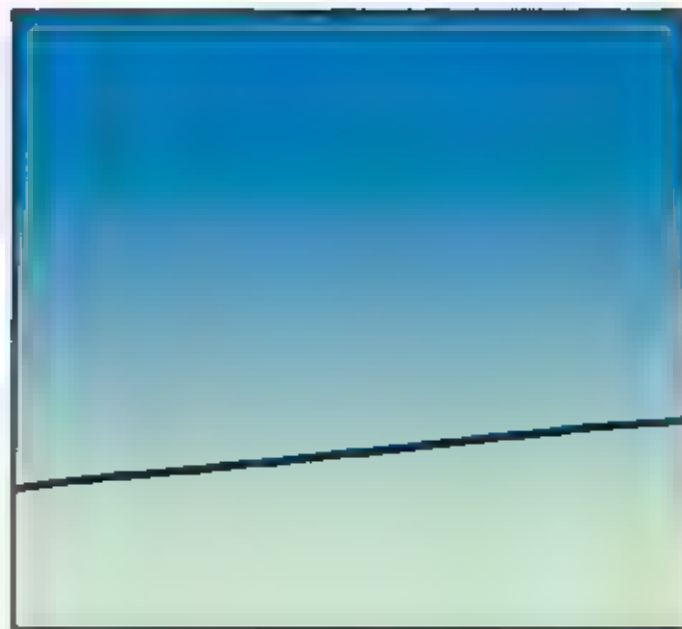
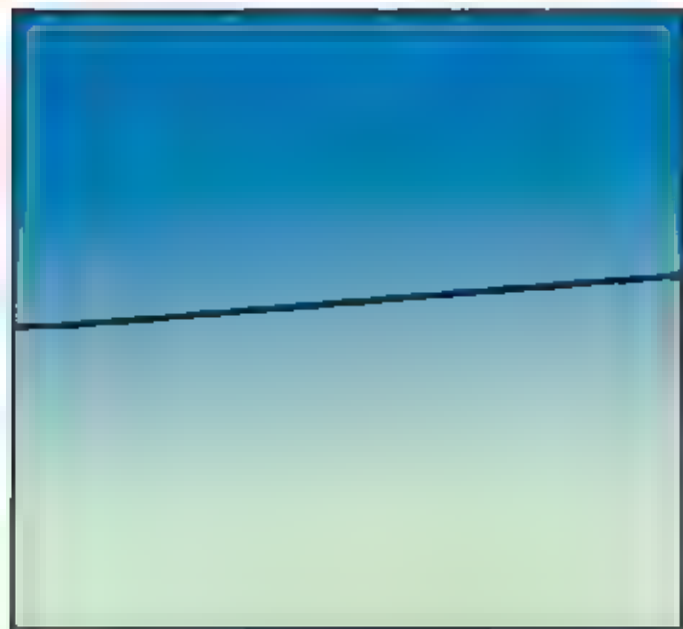


TAIL-THUMPING
WITH ABSOLUTELY
NO PROVOCATION

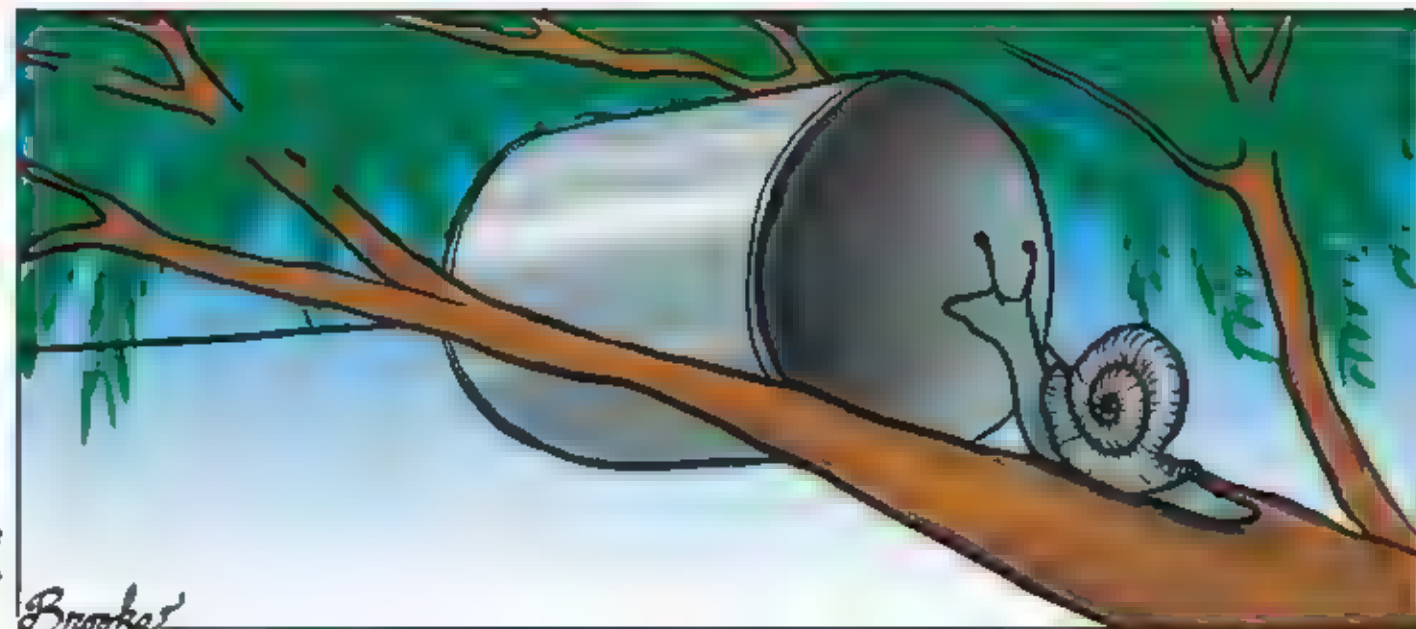


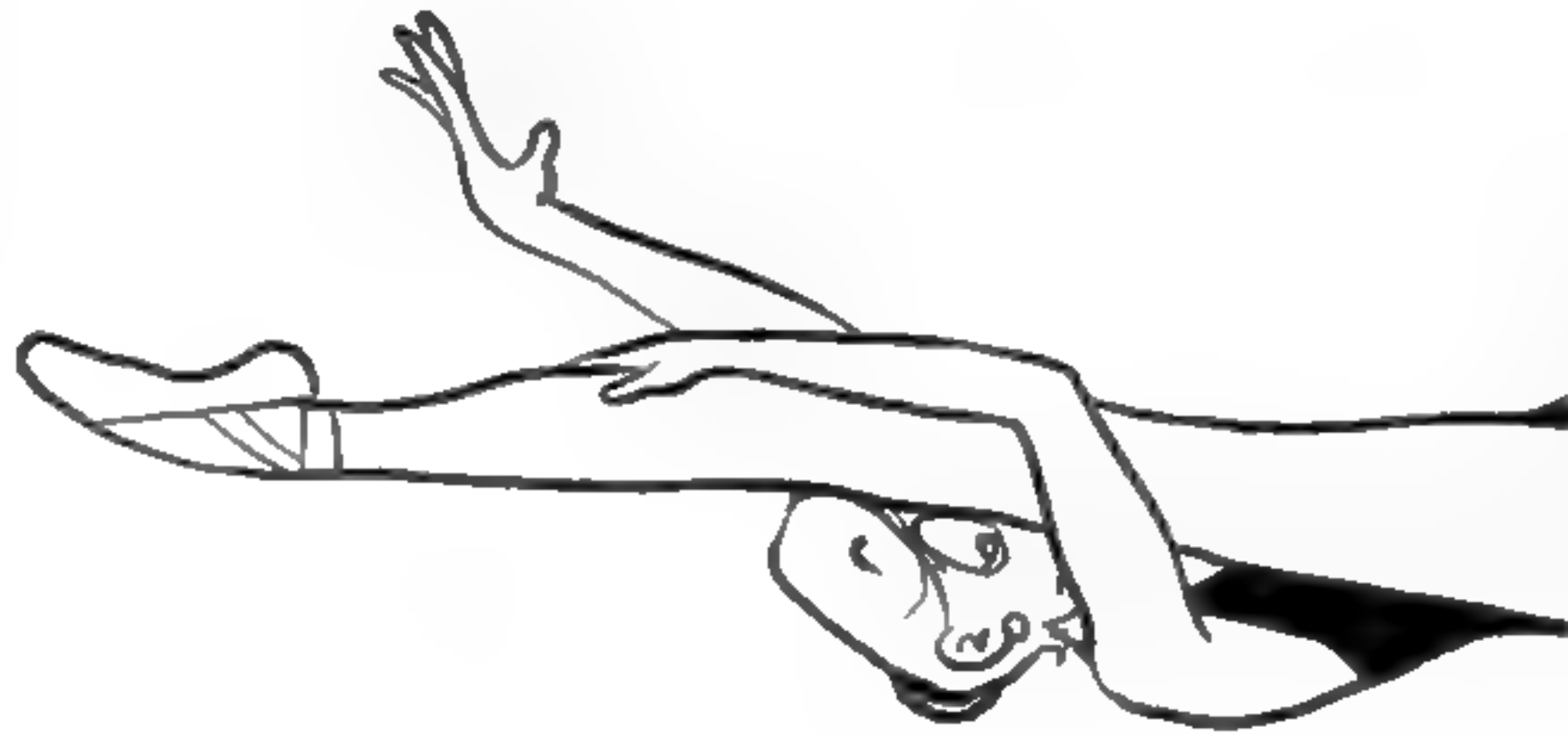
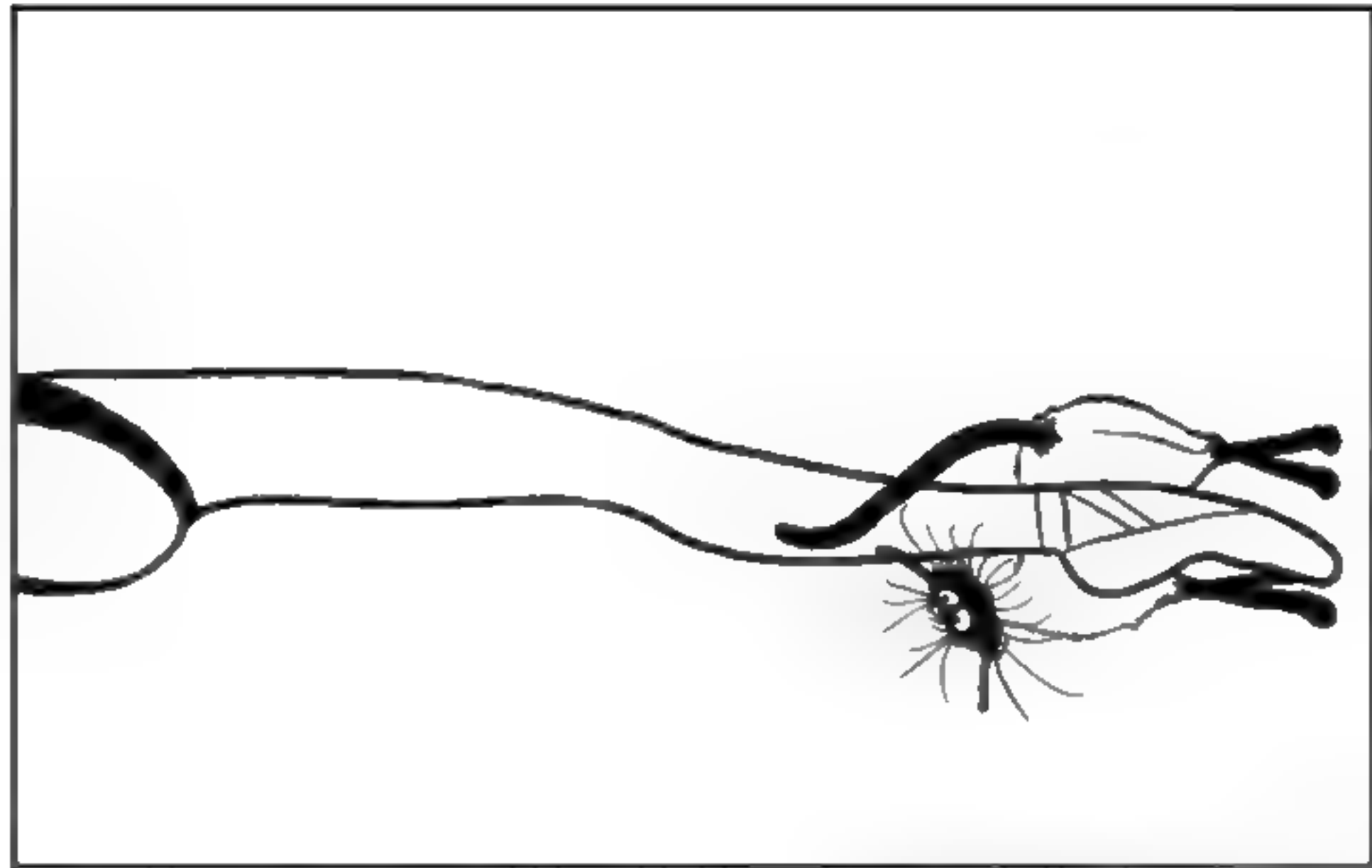


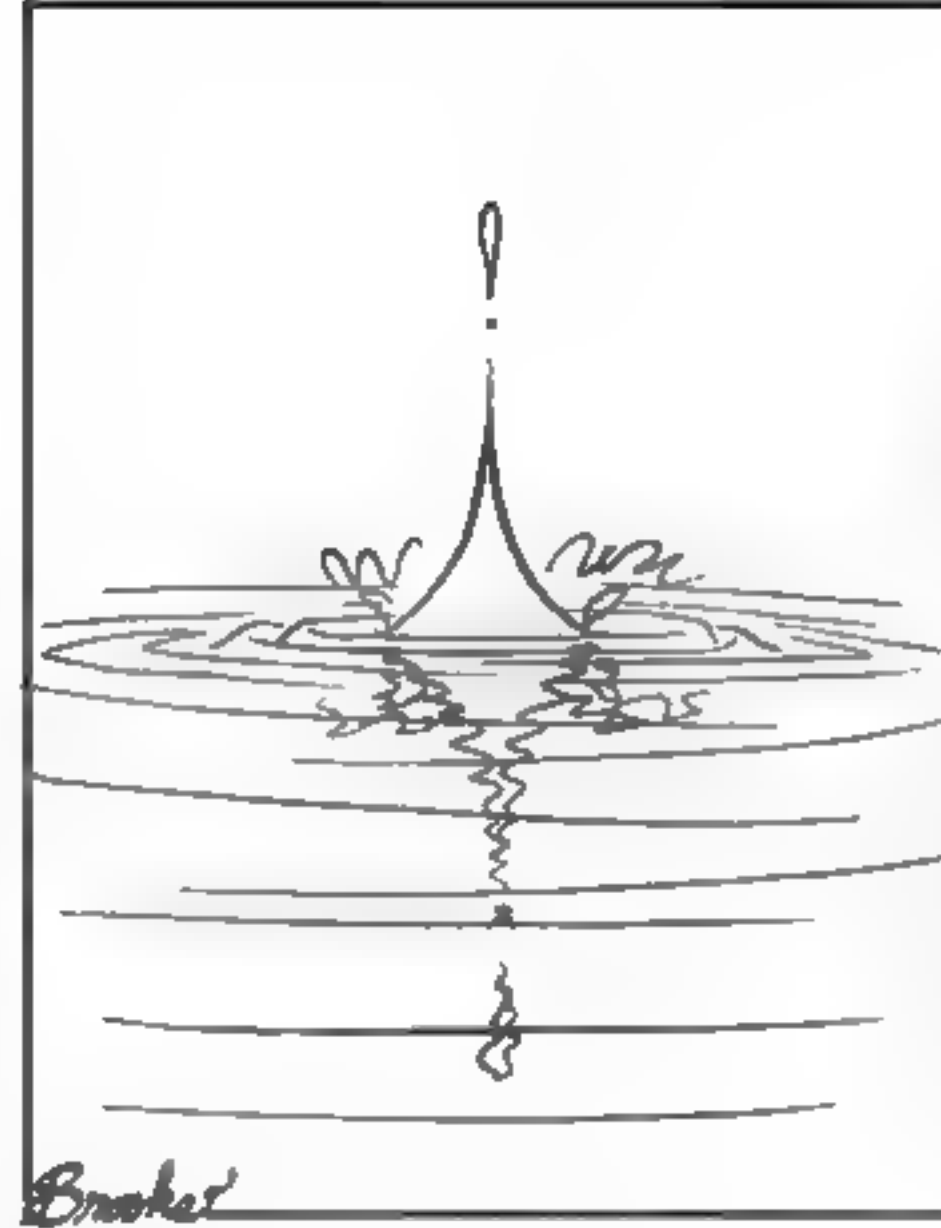
PLEASE REPEAT, GALACTIC
CENTRAL COMMAND...
YOUR SIGNAL IS
DETERIORATING.
...ALL I HEAR
IS HEAVY
BREATHING.

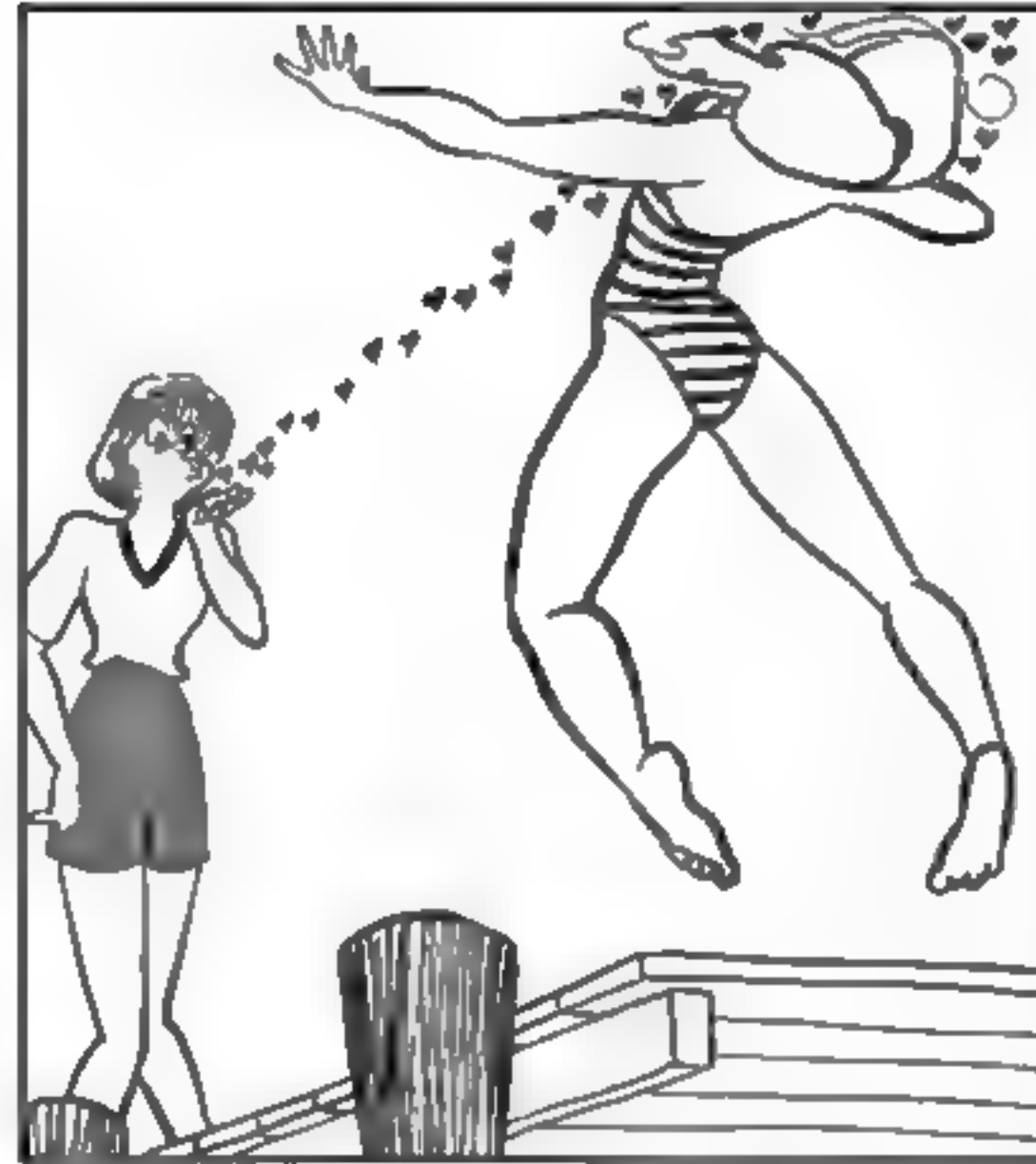


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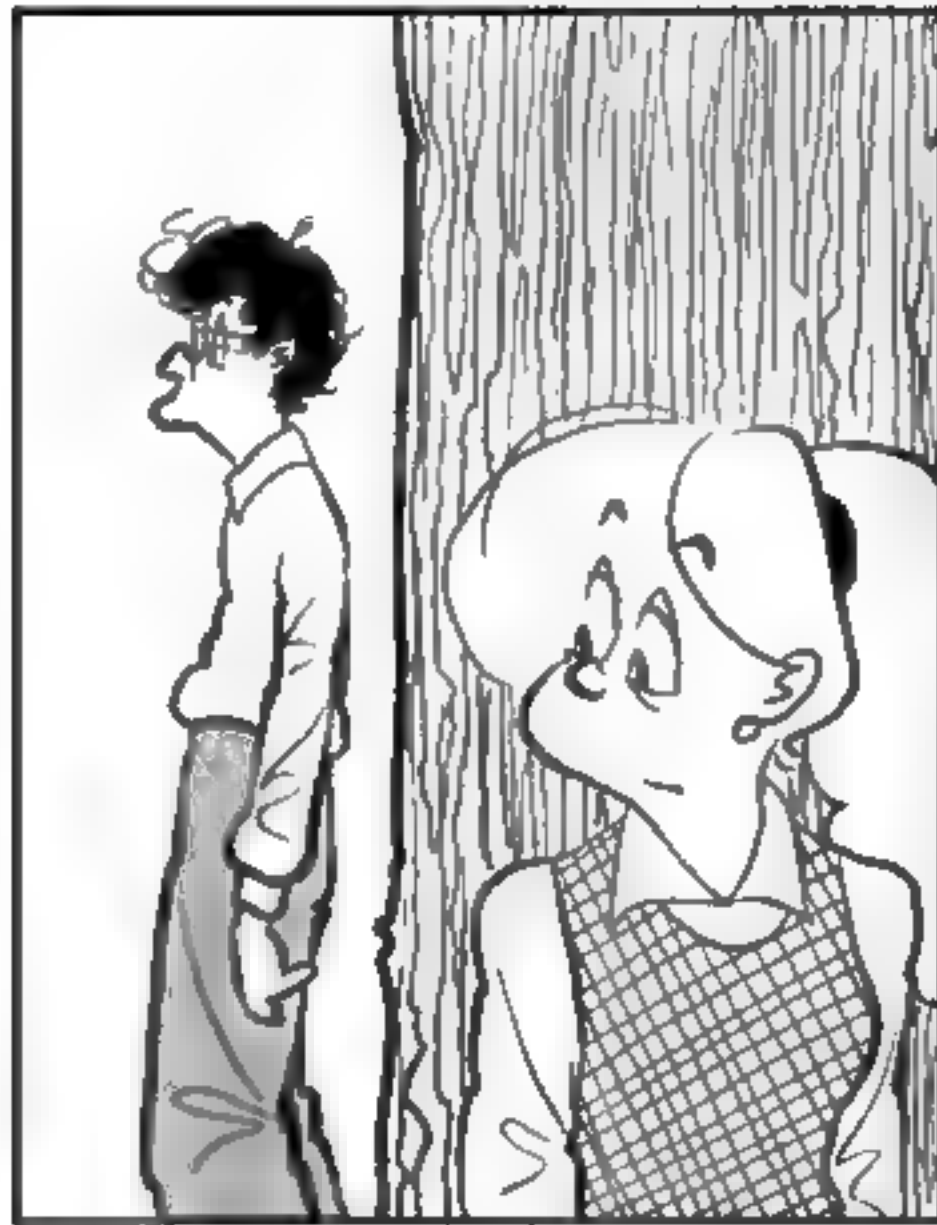






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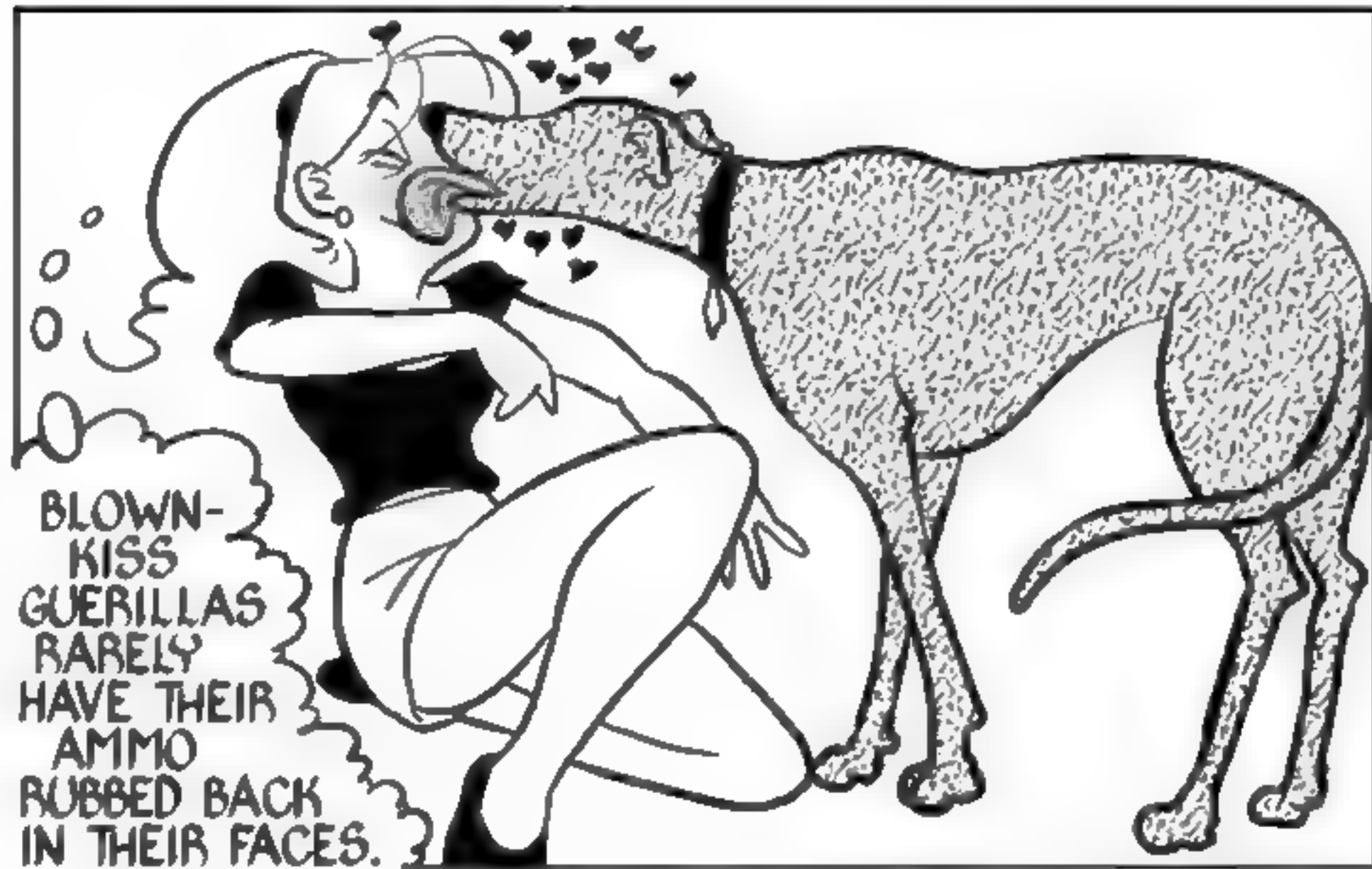




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Brooke

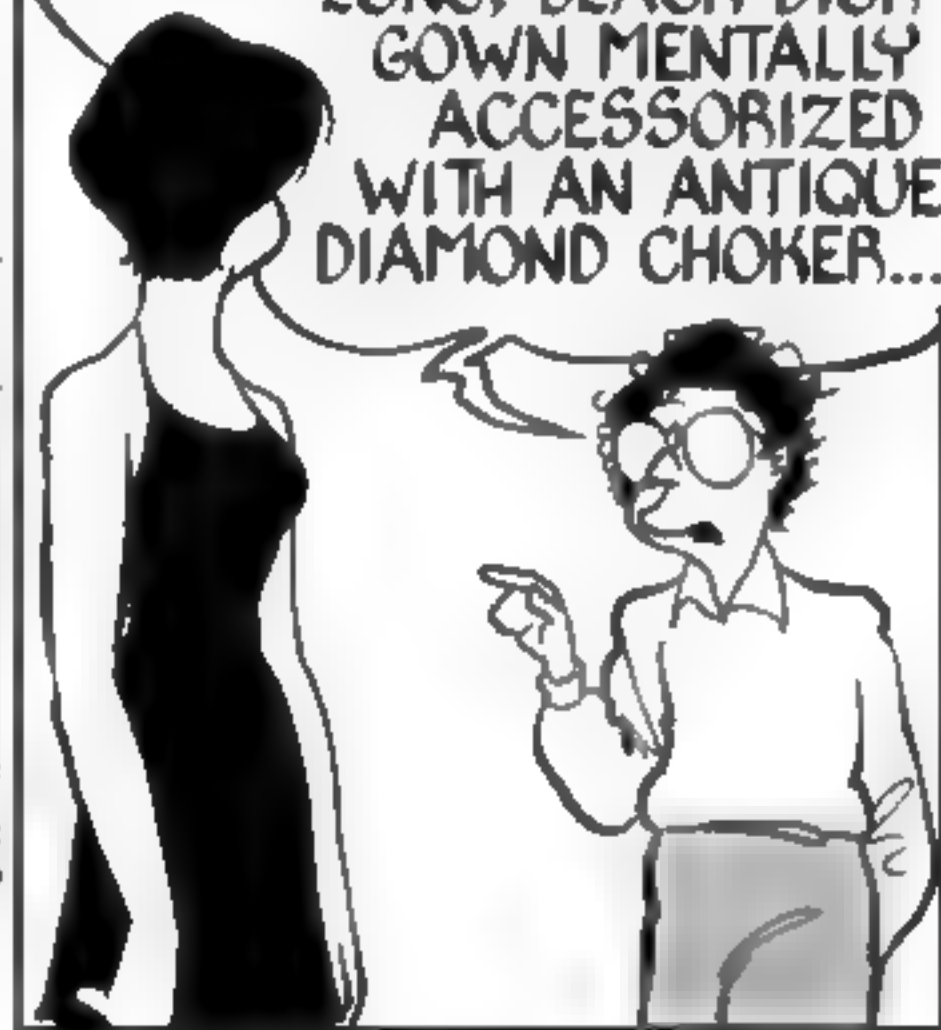


ARE YOU MENTALLY
UNDRESSING ME?!

WELL,
TO BE
HONEST...



I MENTALLY REPLACED YOUR
LITTLE SUNDRESS WITH A
LONG, BLACK DIOR
GOWN MENTALLY
ACCESSORIZED
WITH AN ANTIQUE
DIAMOND CHOKER...

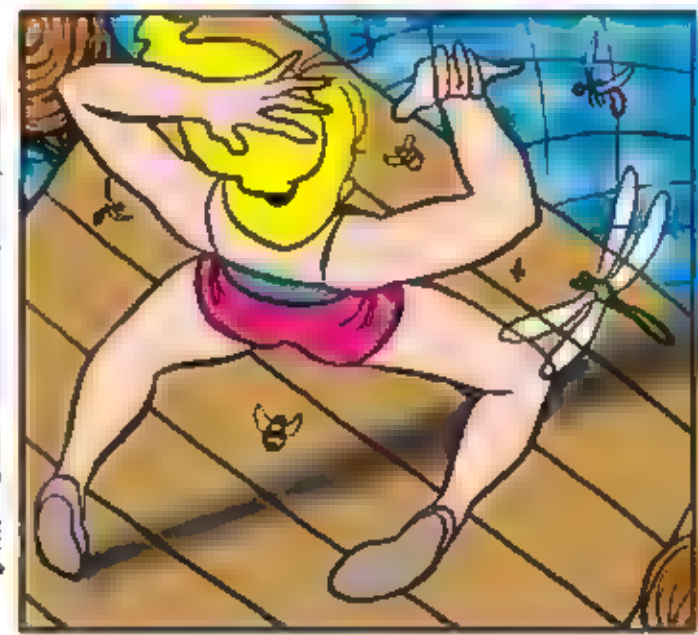
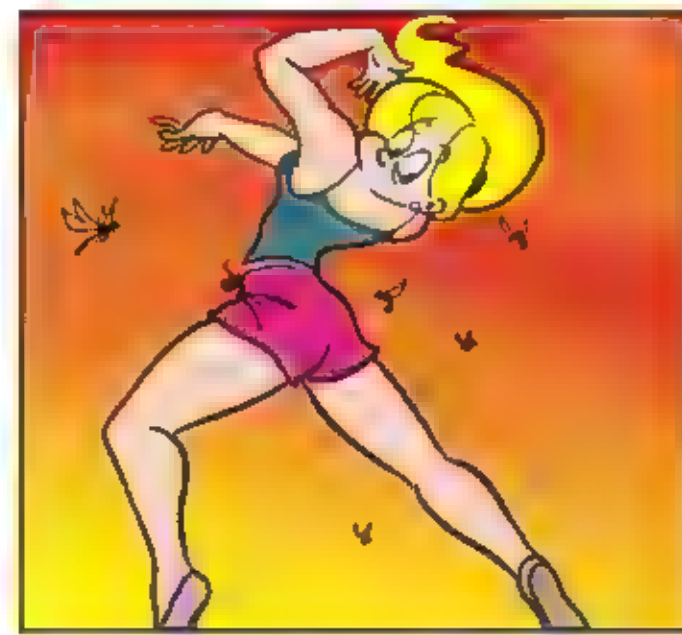
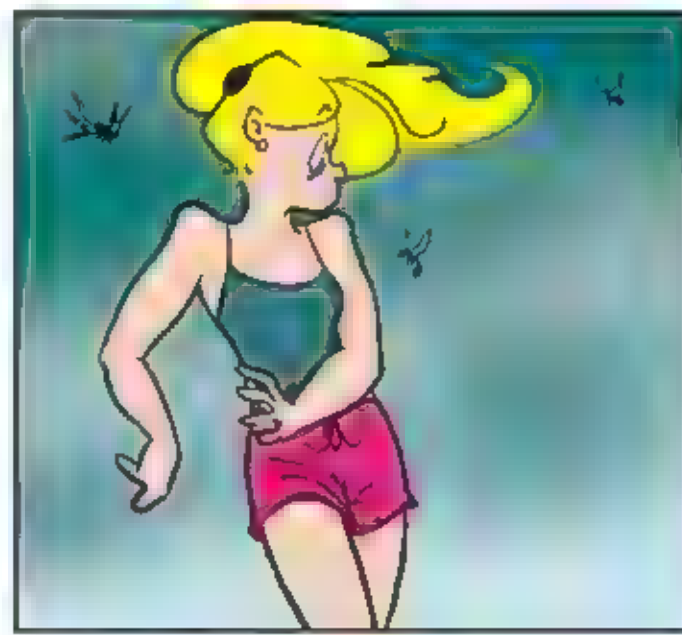
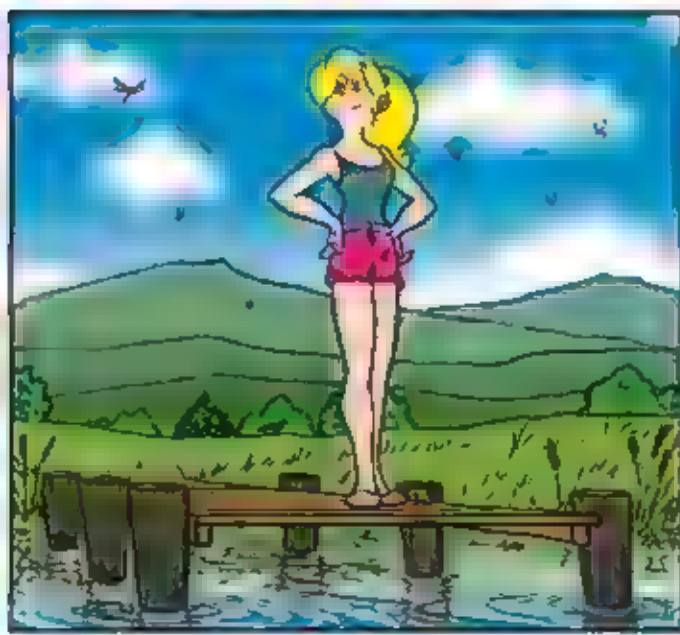
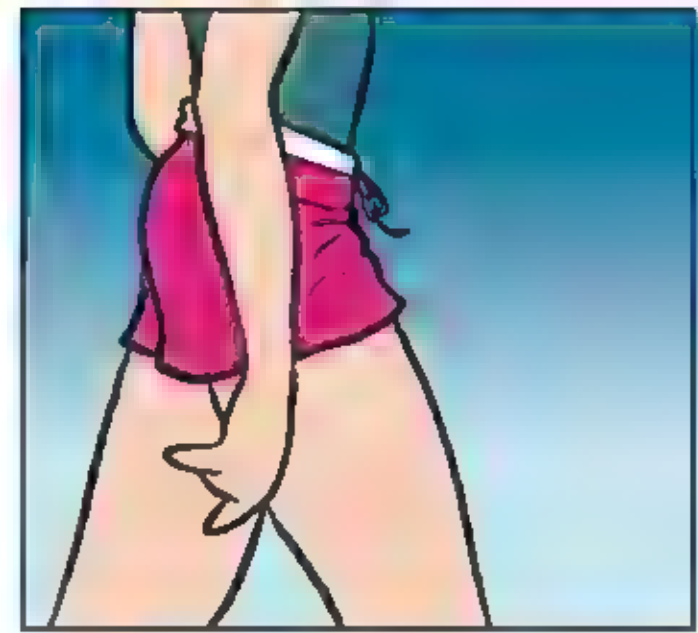


...THEN I MENTALLY SWEEPED
YOUR HAIR BACK WITH
MENTAL MOUSSE, FORMING
FLAMENCO CURLS TO FRAME
YOUR FACE, AND I MENTALLY
PLACED ONE DELICATE ROSE
JUST BY YOUR RIGHT EAR...

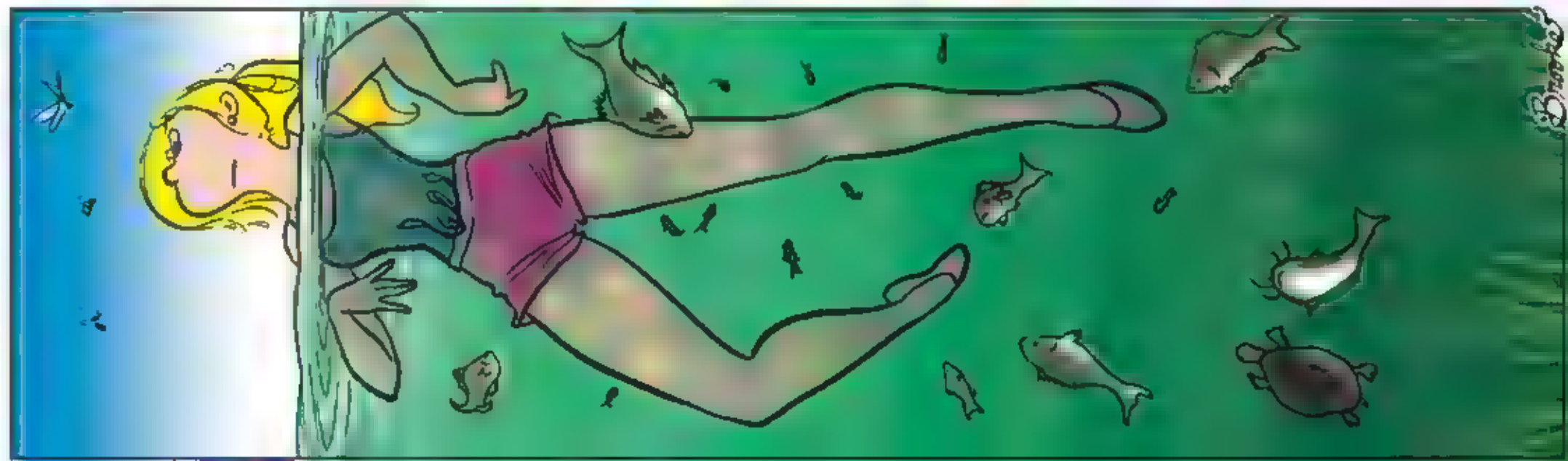
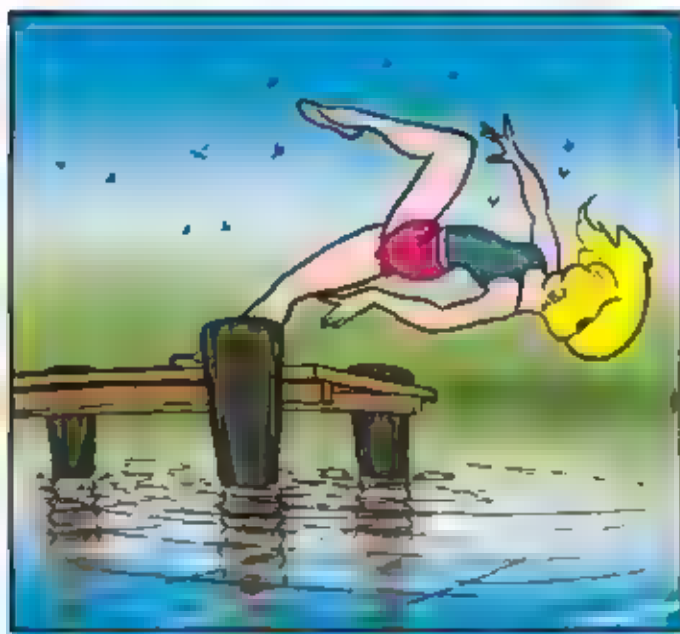


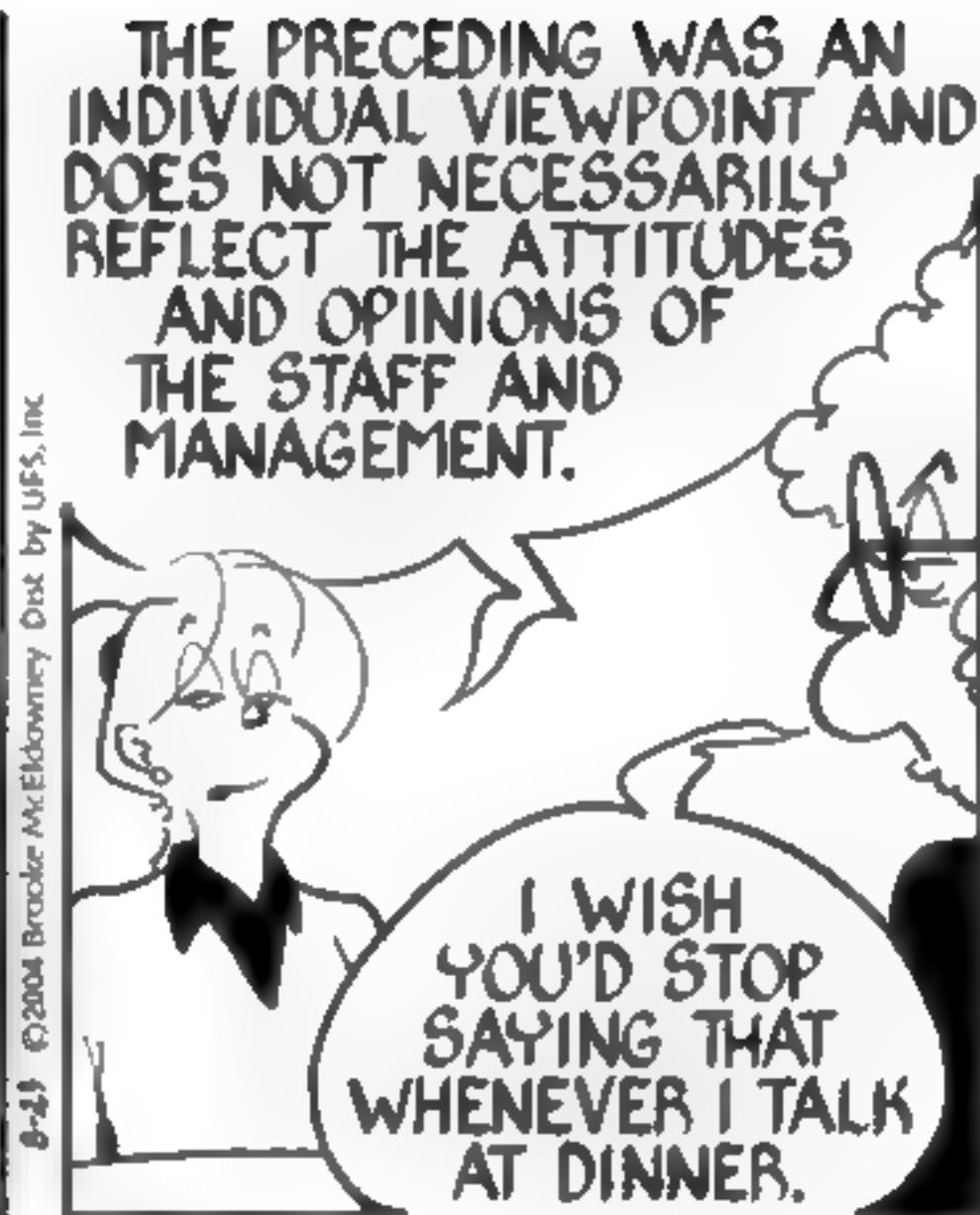
...ADDED A TOUCH OF MENTAL
MASCARA AND A LITTLE
BLUSH TO HIGHLIGHT
YOUR
CHEEKS...

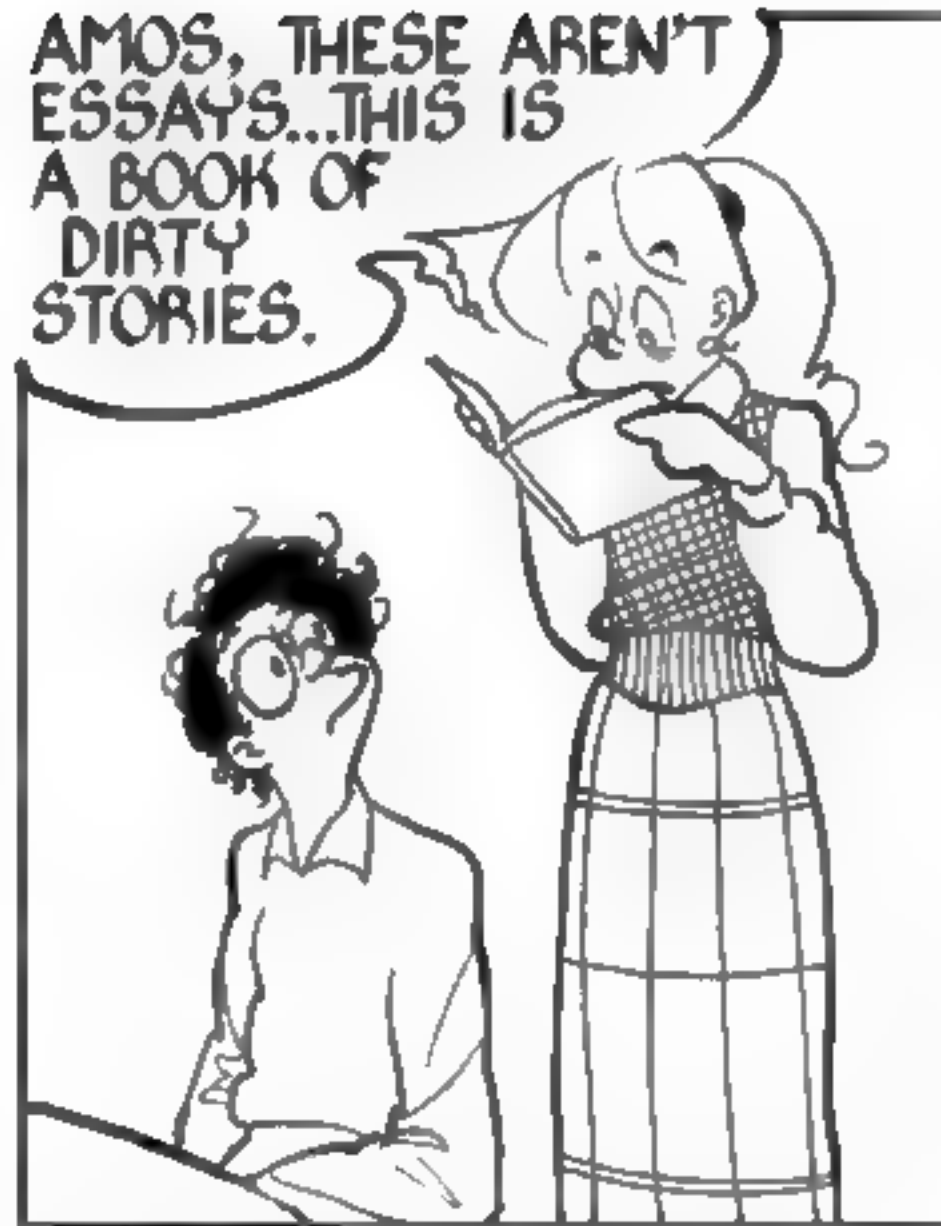
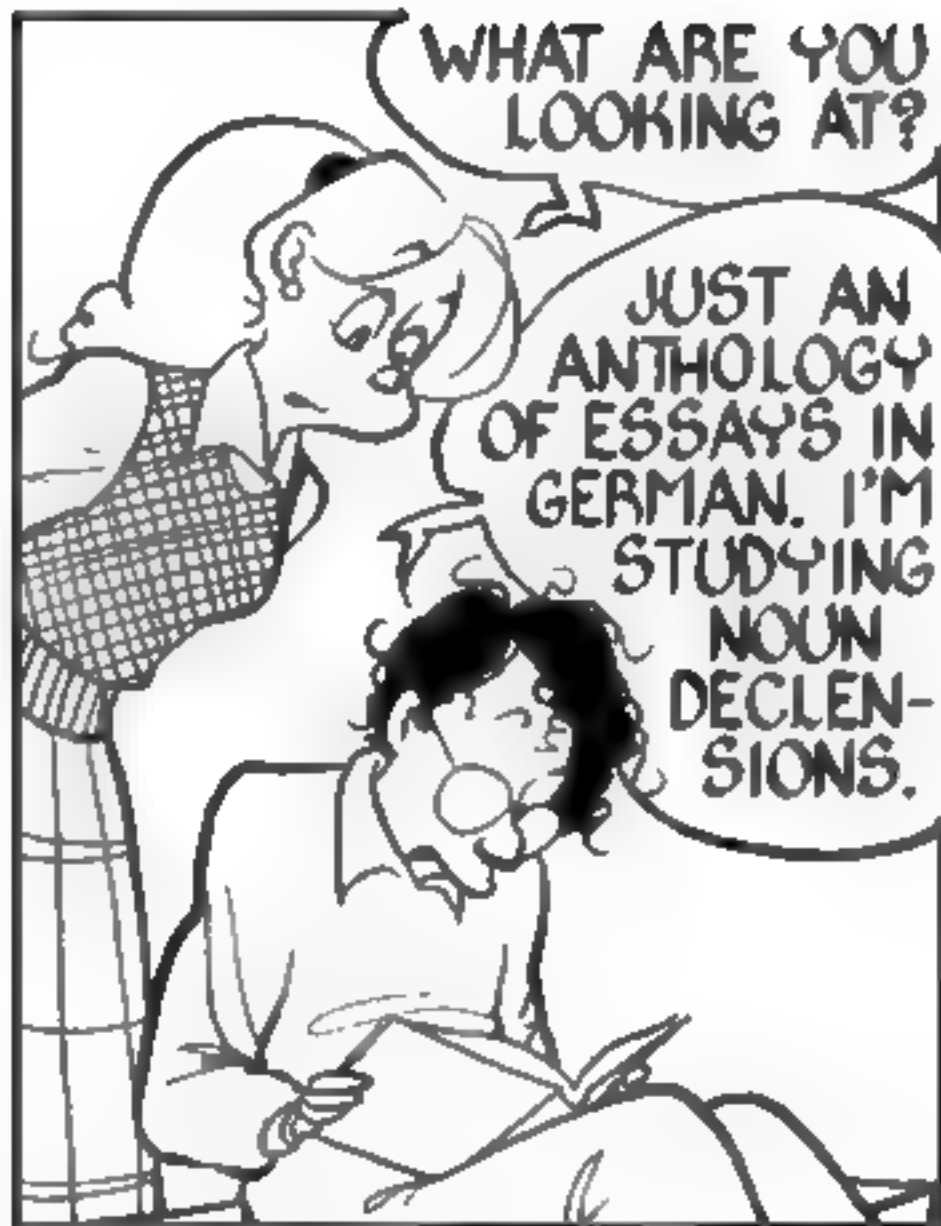




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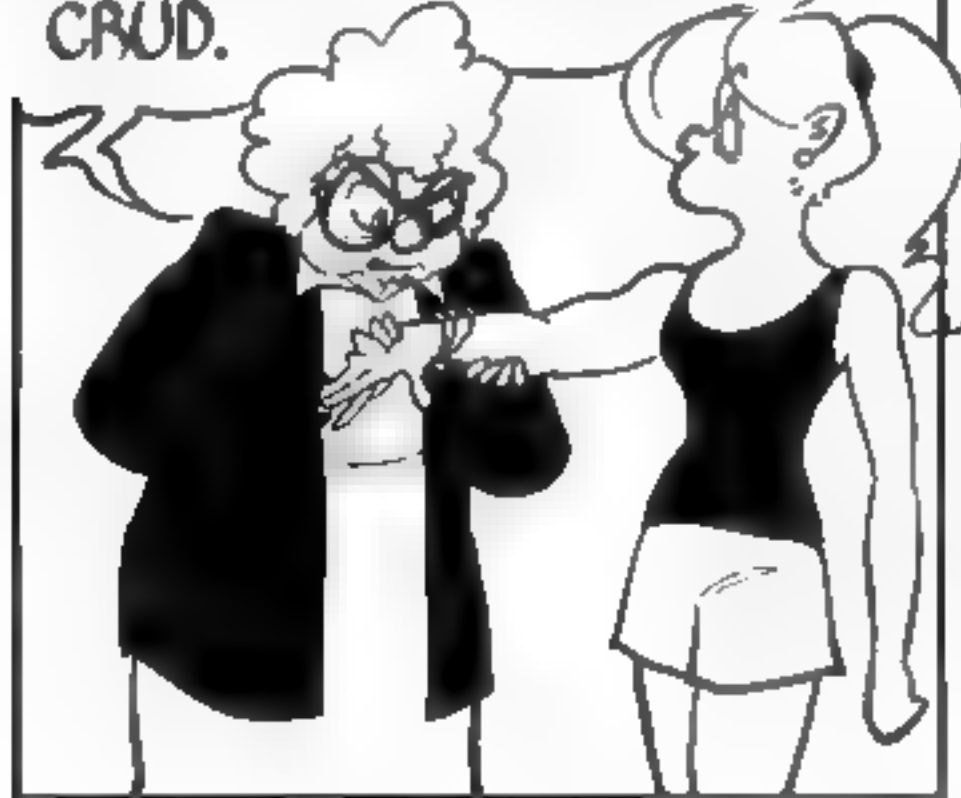






Brooke

YOU CALL THAT A BRACELET?
PEOPLE OF MY GENERATION
WORE BRACELETS MADE
OF PRECIOUS METALS. THIS
IS JUST AN OVERPRICED
PLASTIC PIECE OF
CRUD.



YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG,
GRAN...THIS IS A UNIQUE,
ARTISAN-HANDCRAFTED,
DESIGNER-NAME, OVER-
PRICED, PLASTIC
PIECE
OF
CRUD.



FOR PEOPLE OF MY
GENERATION, PRECIOUS
METALS WOULD BE NICE,
BUT VERBIAGE WILL
HAVE TO DO.





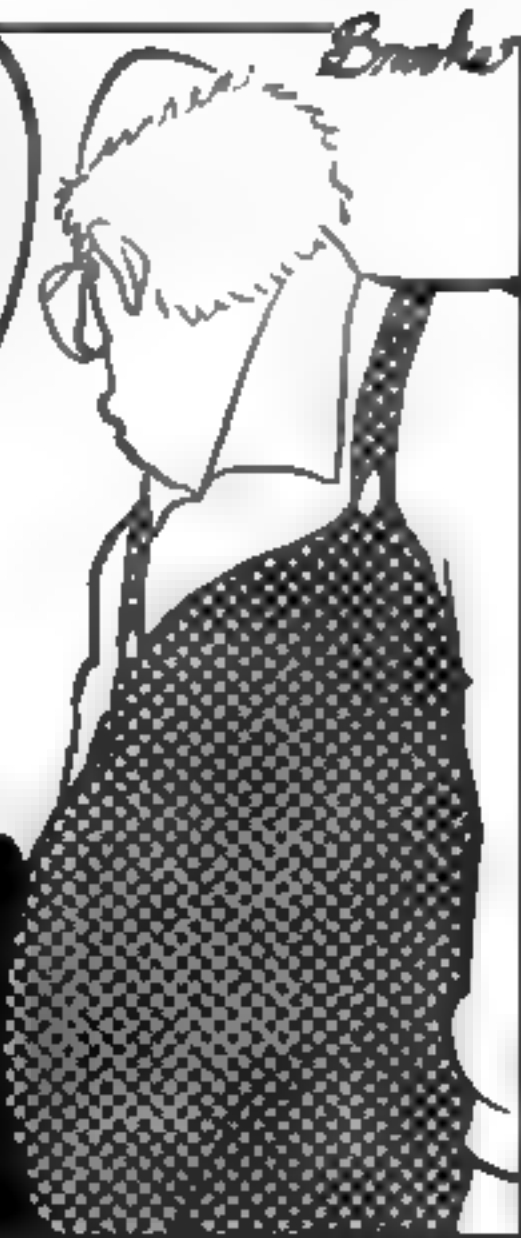


SOMETIMES
I WANT TO
GIVE YOU
A PIECE OF
MY MIND!

THAT'S VERY
KIND OF YOU,
BUTTERNUT.
AND I WANT
TO GIVE YOU
PEACE OF
MIND,
TOO.



NOT PEACE
OF MIND,
YOU BOOBY.
A PIECE OF
MY MIND!

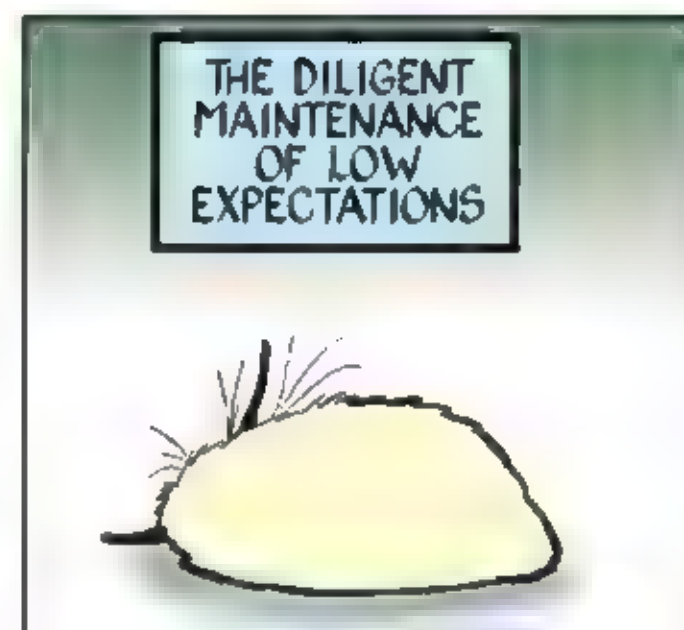
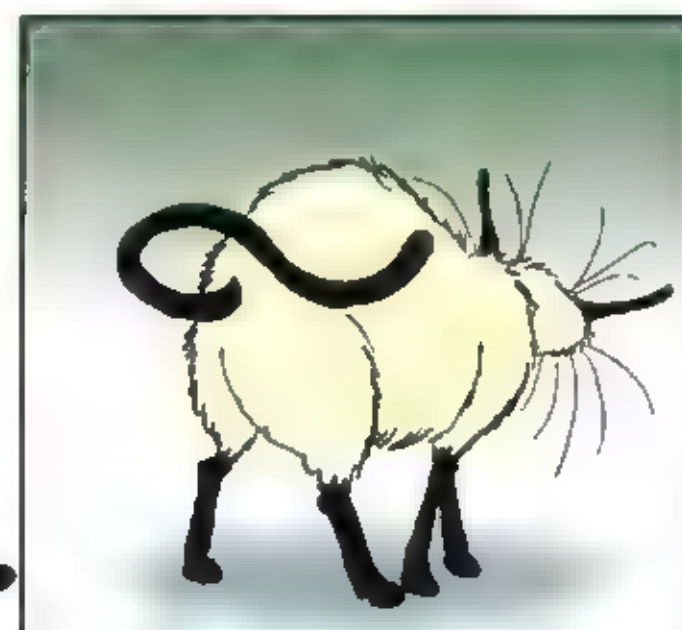
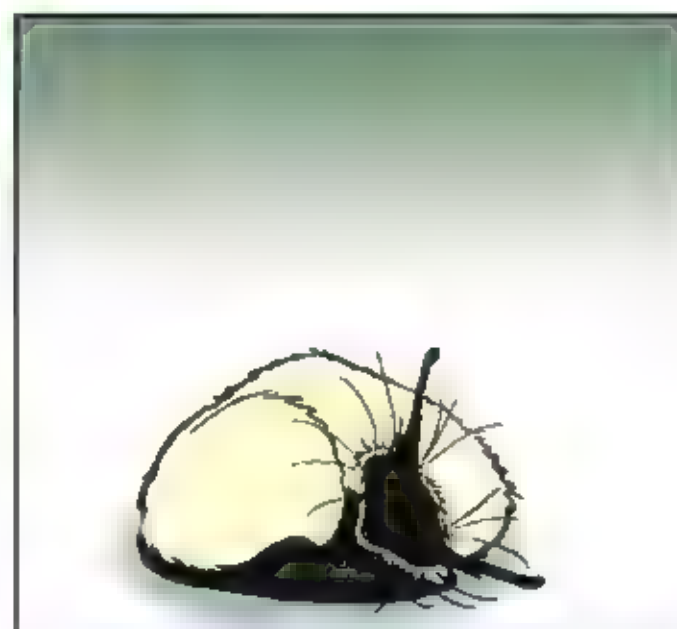
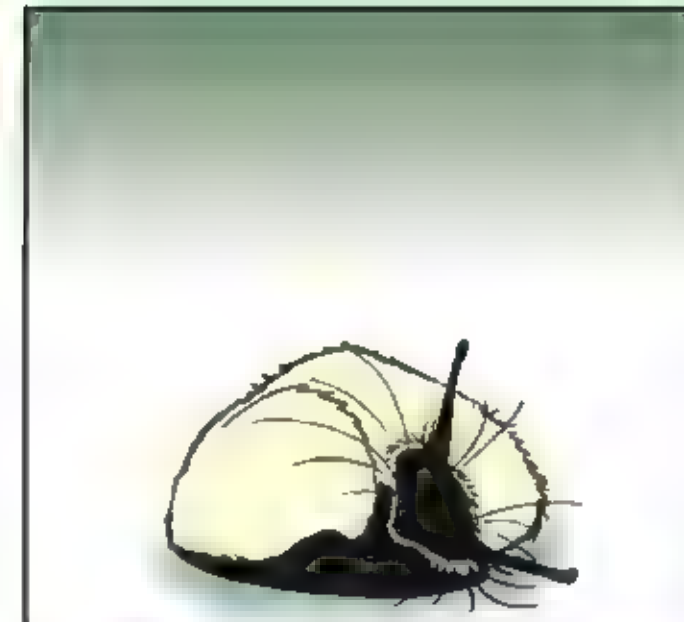


OH...RIGHT. I GET YOU. WELL,
LET'S SEE...I SUPPOSE I
COULD UPGRADE MY FRONTAL
LOBE...OR PERHAPS JAZZ
UP THE LEFT TEMPORAL
AREA, IF YOU DON'T MIND
SPARING A BIT
OF SPEECH
CENTER...



YOUR GRANDMOTHER IS
LURKING IN THE AZALEAS,
BUT I'D STEER CLEAR IF
I WERE YOU. SHE HAS A
MEAN SWING, AND THAT
UKULELE SHE GOT AT THE
1964 WORLD'S FAIR
LEAVES A BRUISE
ON THE KNEES.





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EXCUSE US, SIR, BUT ARE
YOU THE INDIVIDUAL WHO
REPORTED MULTIPLE ALIEN
ABDUCTIONS TO THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT?



AND ARE YOU, BY ANY
CHANCE, POLITICALLY
EXTREME, RELIGIOUSLY
FRENZIED, GIRDLED WITH
EXPLOSIVES AND
DANGEROUSLY INSANE?



AND ARE
THOSE...UM...
TOLLHOUSE
COOKIES
WE SMELL?



WHY
DO YOU
GENTLE-
MEN
ALWAYS
WEAR
SUN-
GLAS-
SES?

BECAUSE SUNGLASSES
ANNOUNCE THAT WE
PROTECT NATIONAL
SECURITY FROM
BOGUS CRACKPOTS.

OTHERWISE WE
JUST LOOK LIKE A
COUPLE OF JEHOVAH'S
WITNESSES CIRCLING
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
FOR PREY.



Brooks

ACTUALLY, WE ARE A COUPLE OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, BUT WE
HIRE OURSELVES OUT FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY AND GET
THESE COOL
SUN-
GLASSES.

MINE
ARE
ARMANI.



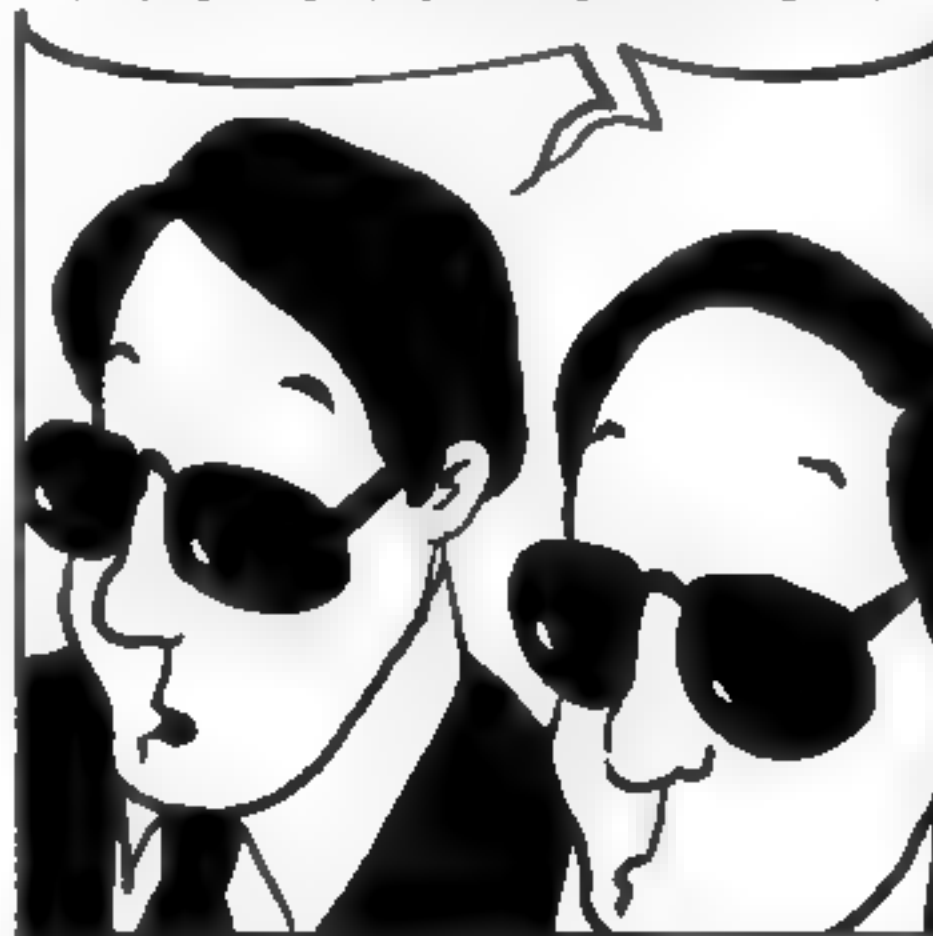
FIRST OF ALL, SIR,
EXACTLY HOW MANY ALIEN
ABDUCTIONS ARE YOU
REPORTING?



WELL, IF MEMORY SERVES,
ABOUT 37 FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR, NOT COUNTING
THE THREE WHO WRIGGLED
FREE OF MY GRIP
AND BOLTED
SHRIEKING
FOR THE
TIMBER.



WAIT A MINUTE...
YOU ABDUCTED PEOPLE FOR
HIDEOUS, UNSPEAKABLE
ALIEN EXPERIMENTATION?



THAT, AND I HAD A DRAWING
FOR AN S.U.V.

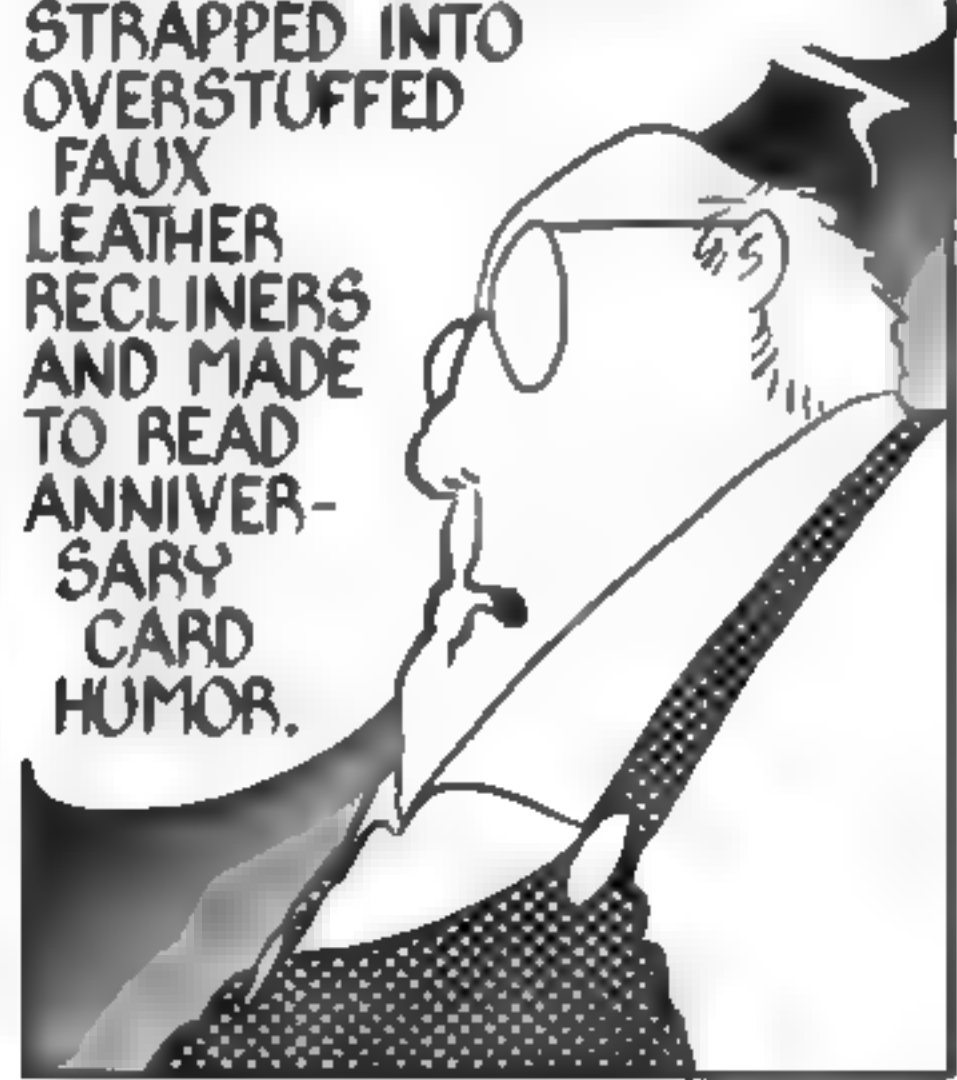




ABOARD THE MOTHER SHIP,
ALIEN EXPERIMENTATION ON
ABDUCTEES WAS FAIRLY
STRAIGHTFORWARD
AT FIRST...COUNTING TEETH,
INSPECTING
SUSPICIOUS
MOLES...



BUT I ESCALATED MY PROBES
UNTIL THE SUBJECTS WERE
STRAPPED INTO
OVERSTUFFED
FAUX
LEATHER
RECLINERS
AND MADE
TO READ
ANNIVER-
SARY
CARD
HUMOR.



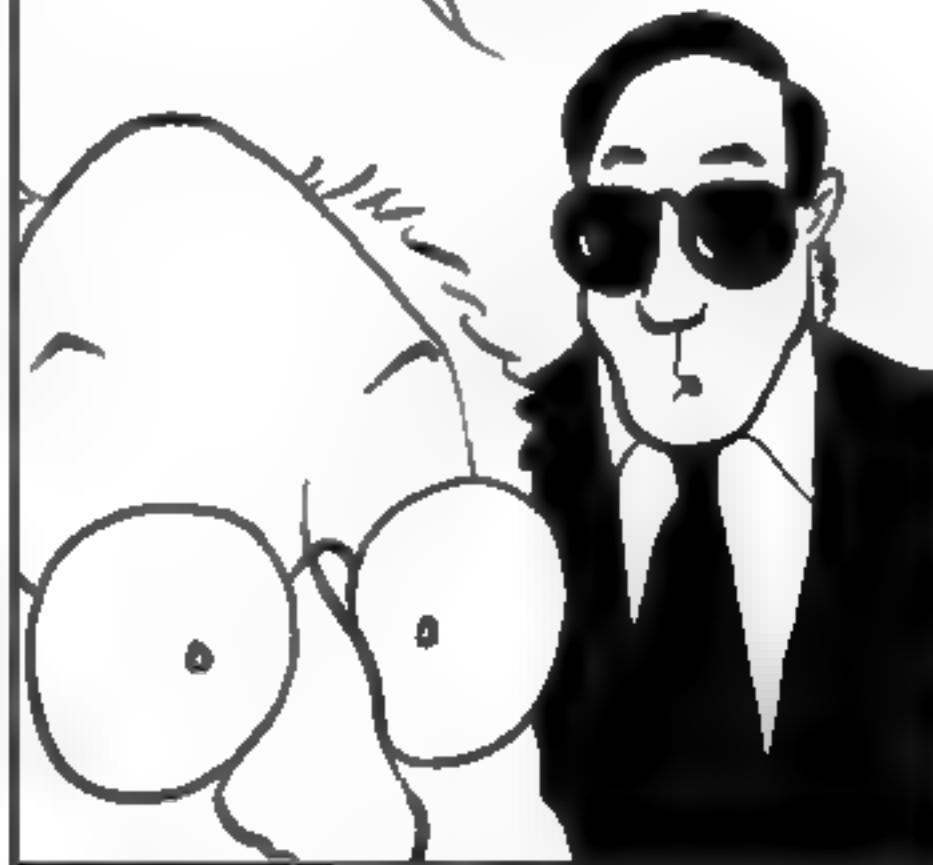
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AT A LATER STAGE I ADMIN-
ISTERED BUTTOCKS INJEC-
TIONS TO MY ABDUCTEES
TO REDUCE FACIAL CREASES
AND GIVE A MORE YOUTH-
FUL LOOK TO THEIR
LINEAMENTS.



YOU MEAN YOU
WERE GIVING THEM
BOTOX INJECTIONS.



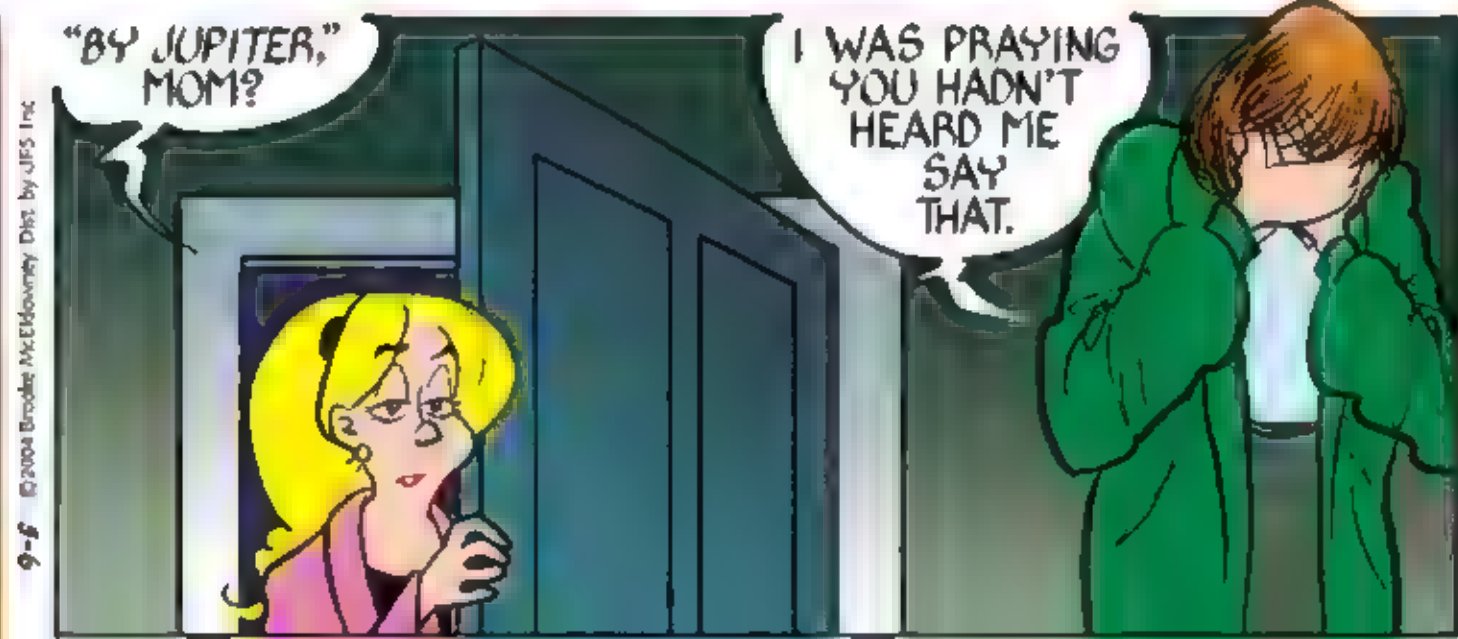
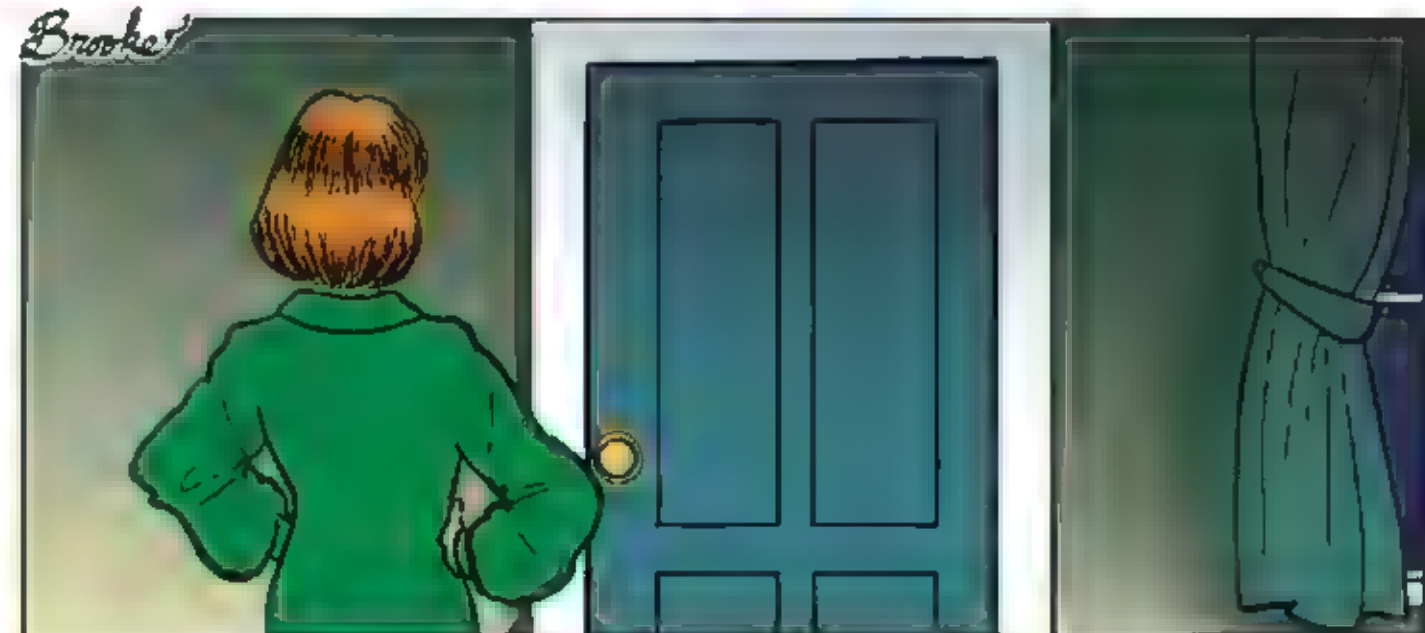
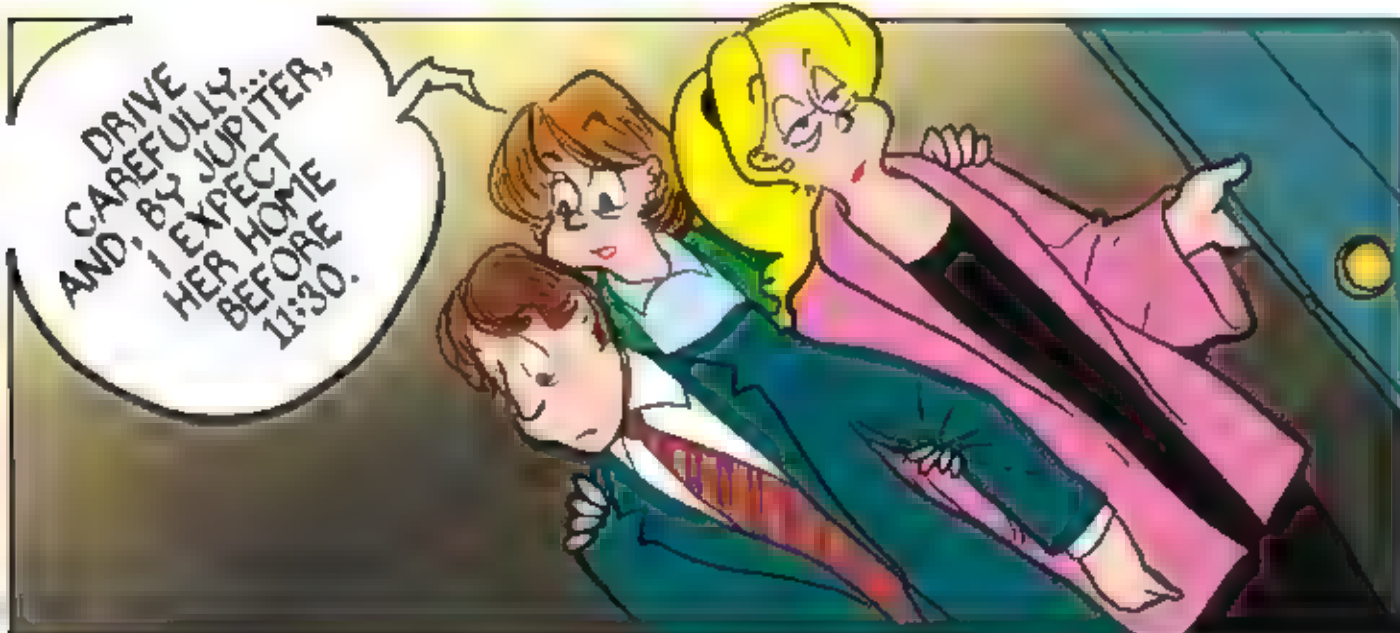
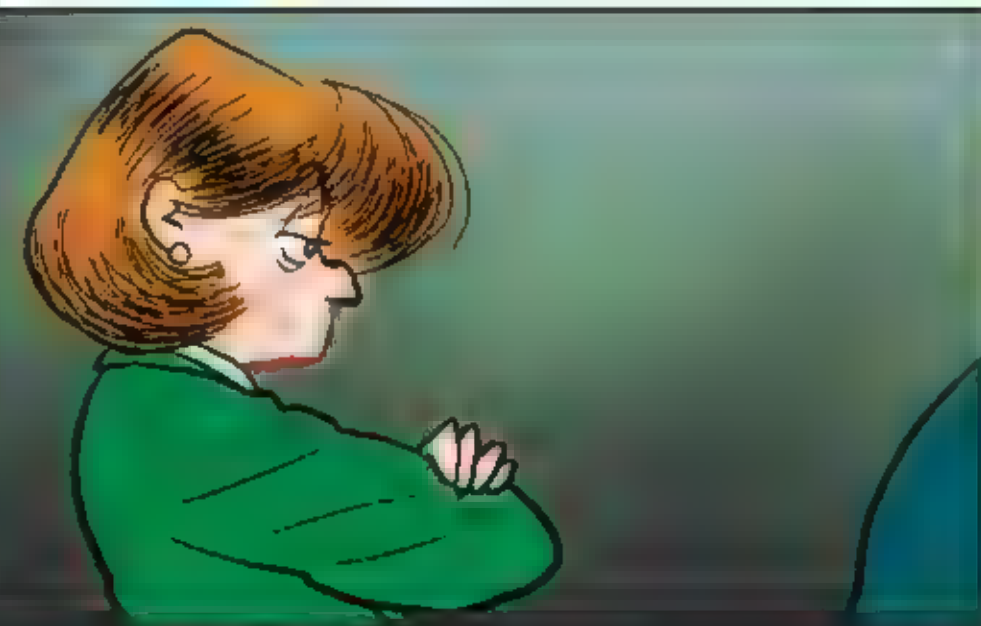
Broder



...UM....YES...
...OF COURSE.



9 CHICKWEED LANE



FINALLY, I DECIDED TO
FOCUS MY ALIEN ABDUC-
TIONS ON HEADS OF STATE.
...THE MOST RECENT BEING
LARCHMONT F. TIMPTON,
PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES.



THE PRESIDENT'S NAME IS
NOT LARCHMONT F.
TIMPTON.



OH.

LET'S
GO...
WE'VE
HEARD
ENOUGH.



VERY FUNNY,
LARCHMONT.



BEFORE WE GO TO
THE CONCERT, I HAVE AN
ADMISSION TO MAKE.



I HAVE COME TO ANTICIPATE
YOUR COMPANY MORE THAN
AS A MERE FRIEND. I FIND
YOU INTENSELY GRATIFYING
TO BEHOLD. YOUR OVERALL
ASPECT, AS WELL AS EVERY
PARTICULAR ABOUT IT,
AFFORDS ME DEEP
PLEASURE.



MORE SO THAN THE
BRANDENBURG GATE, THE
CATHEDRAL AT ROUEN,
THE EIFFEL TOWER, OR
THE BROOKLYN
BRIDGE.



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9-7

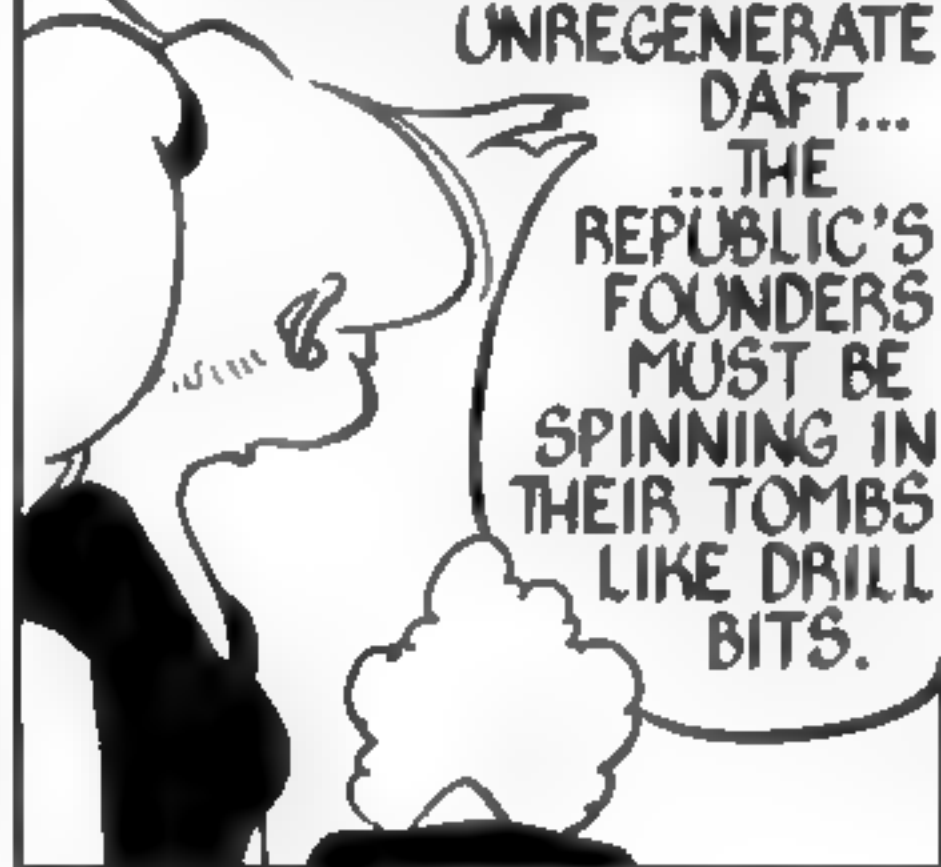
I THINK AMOS IS
IN LOVE WITH ME...
...HE WOULD NEVER
JOKE ABOUT THE
BROOKLYN
BRIDGE.



CRITICIZE ALL YOU WANT,
BUT THE VOTE IS THE MOST
SACRED, PRECIOUS
TREASURE IN OUR
SOCIETY, PRIZED
ABOVE ALL
THINGS IN THE
WORLD.



SO, PERFORCE, IT IS OUR
CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY
TO SQUANDER IT ON A
MEAGER ARRAY OF
FOOLS, LIARS AND THE
UNREGENERATE
DAFT...



...THE
REPUBLIC'S
FOUNDERS
MUST BE
SPINNING IN
THEIR TOMBS
LIKE DRILL
BITS.

IT'S LIKE A MEATLOAF...
...IT MAY TURN YOUR
STOMACH, BUT IT'S WHAT
YOU'RE GETTING FOR
DINNER, SO YOU MIGHT
AS WELL PUT KETCHUP
ON IT.



WHY DO YOU ALWAYS USE
THAT MEATLOAF SIMILE?



NOW, WHAT
I HATE ARE
THE EXIT
POLLS.

IF WE DIDN'T KNOW EACH OTHER, IF WE WERE TOTAL STRANGERS MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHAT WOULD YOU HONESTLY THINK OF ME?



I MEAN, OTHER THAN THE FIRST, SUPERFICIAL IMPRESSION THAT I'M A SKINNY, MYOPIC, GEEKY, WEIRD GUY.



WHAT A GRACEFULLY DIPLOMATIC WAY OF GETTING ME OFF THE HOOK.



YOU ARE?!

WHAT A GRACEFULLY DIPLOMATIC WAY OF GETTING ME OFF THE HOOK.





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I DON'T KNOW WHAT DATING
IS FOR...EVERY GUY I GO OUT
WITH TURNS OUT TO BE A
PRESTIDIGITATOR WITH A
DEEP INTEREST
IN HOOK
CLOSURE...

...AND
THE
INTER-
PERSONAL
SKILLS OF
A HEAT-
SEEKING
BOMB.

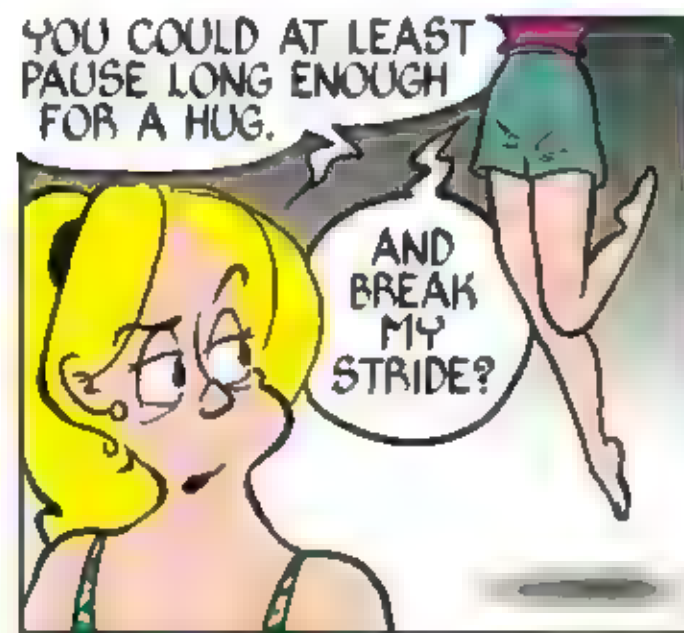
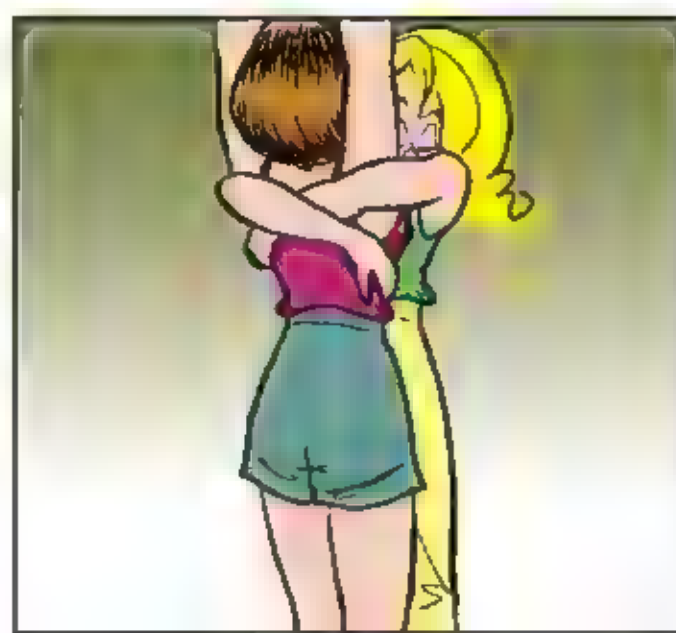
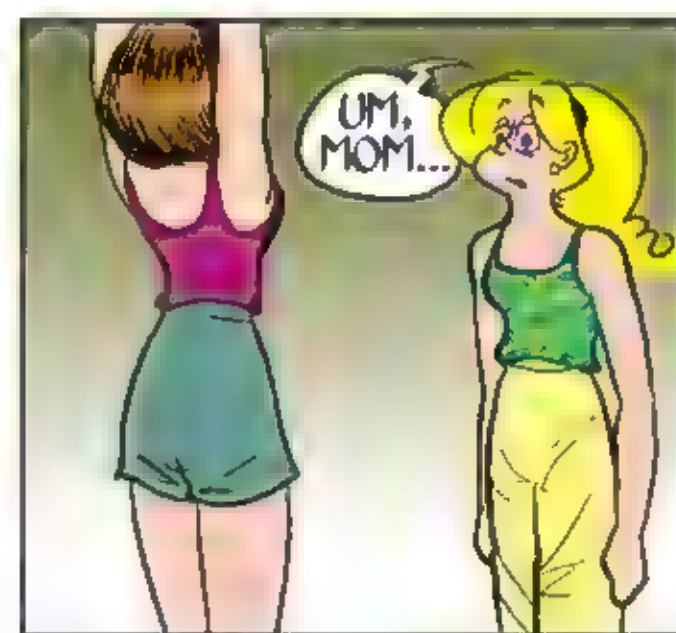
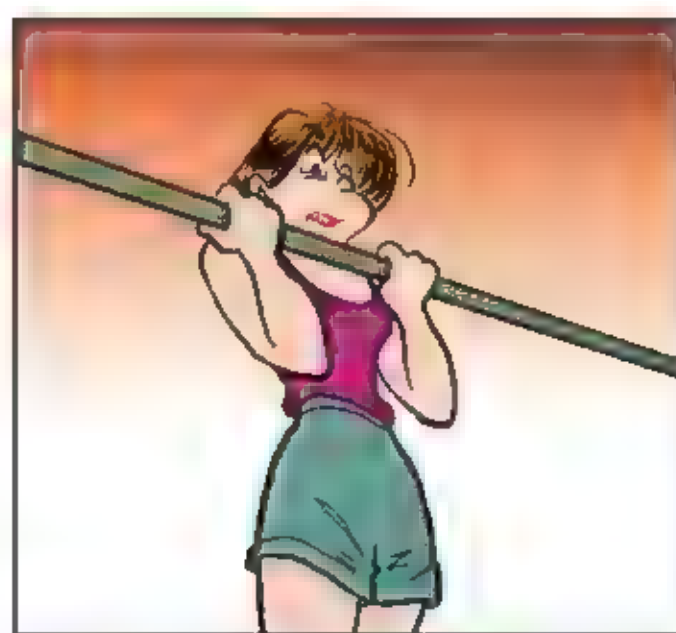
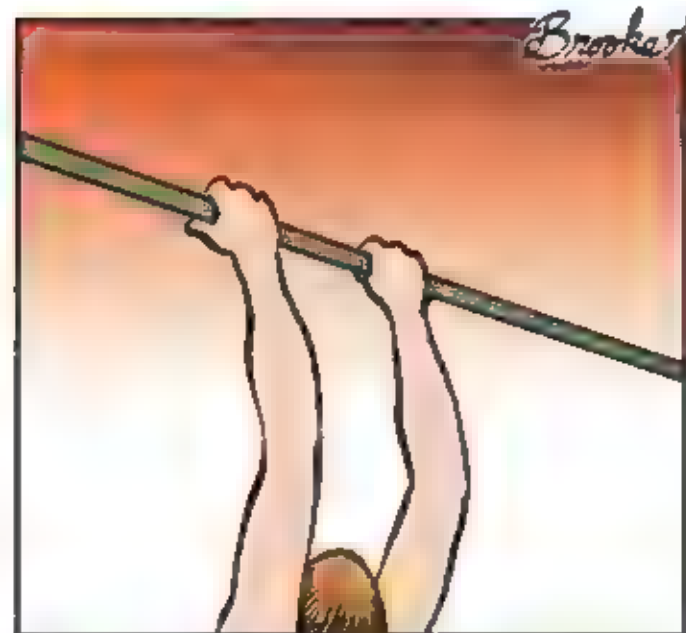
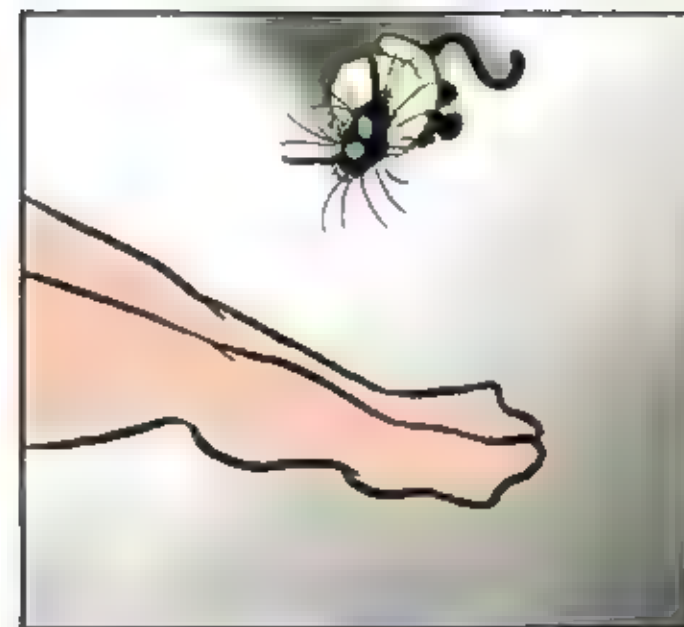
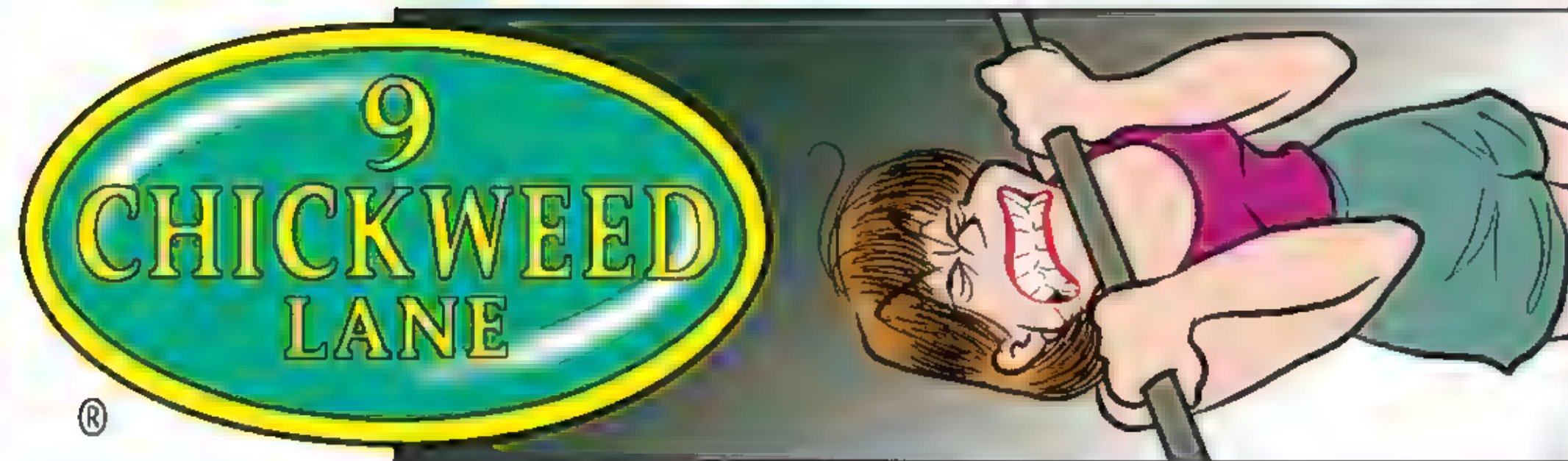
TRUST ME, ONE DAY YOU'LL
RUN INTO THE
RIGHT GUY AND
KNOCK HIS
SOCKS
OFF.

NICE
OF
YOU
TO
SAY...

...BUT THE LANDSCAPE
ISN'T EXACTLY CRAWLING
WITH RIGHT GUYS.

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IT'S ODD, BUT WHILE
MOTHER'S VISITING
UNCLE ROGER,
THERE'S
SOMETHING
MISSING
IN THE
HOUSE.



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SOME INDEFINABLE
QUALITY THAT
I CAN'T QUITE
PUT MY
FINGER ON.



Brinker



AH, YES...
NOW I CAN
DEFINE IT.





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AT ONE TIME
OR ANOTHER,
WE ALL VISIT
THE EDGE.





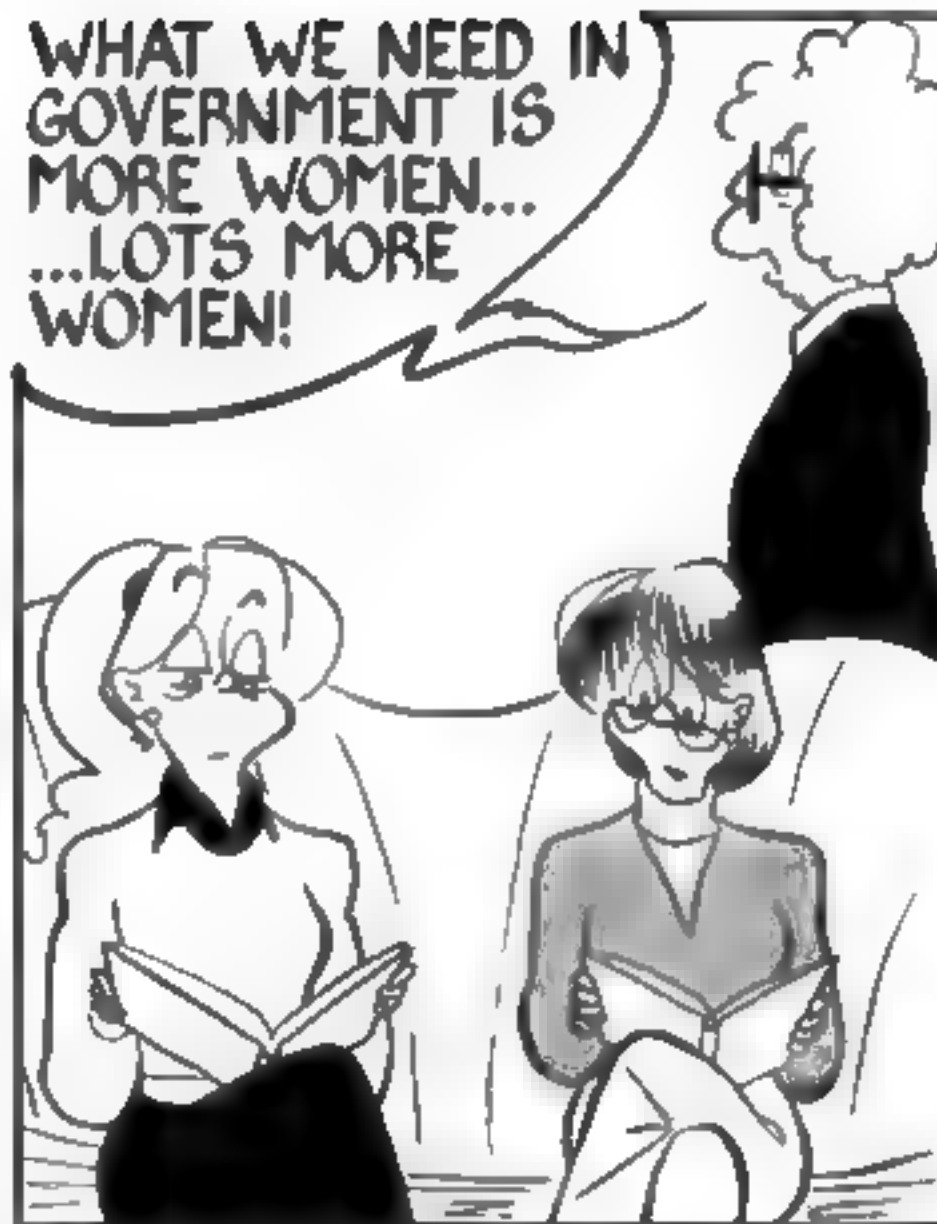
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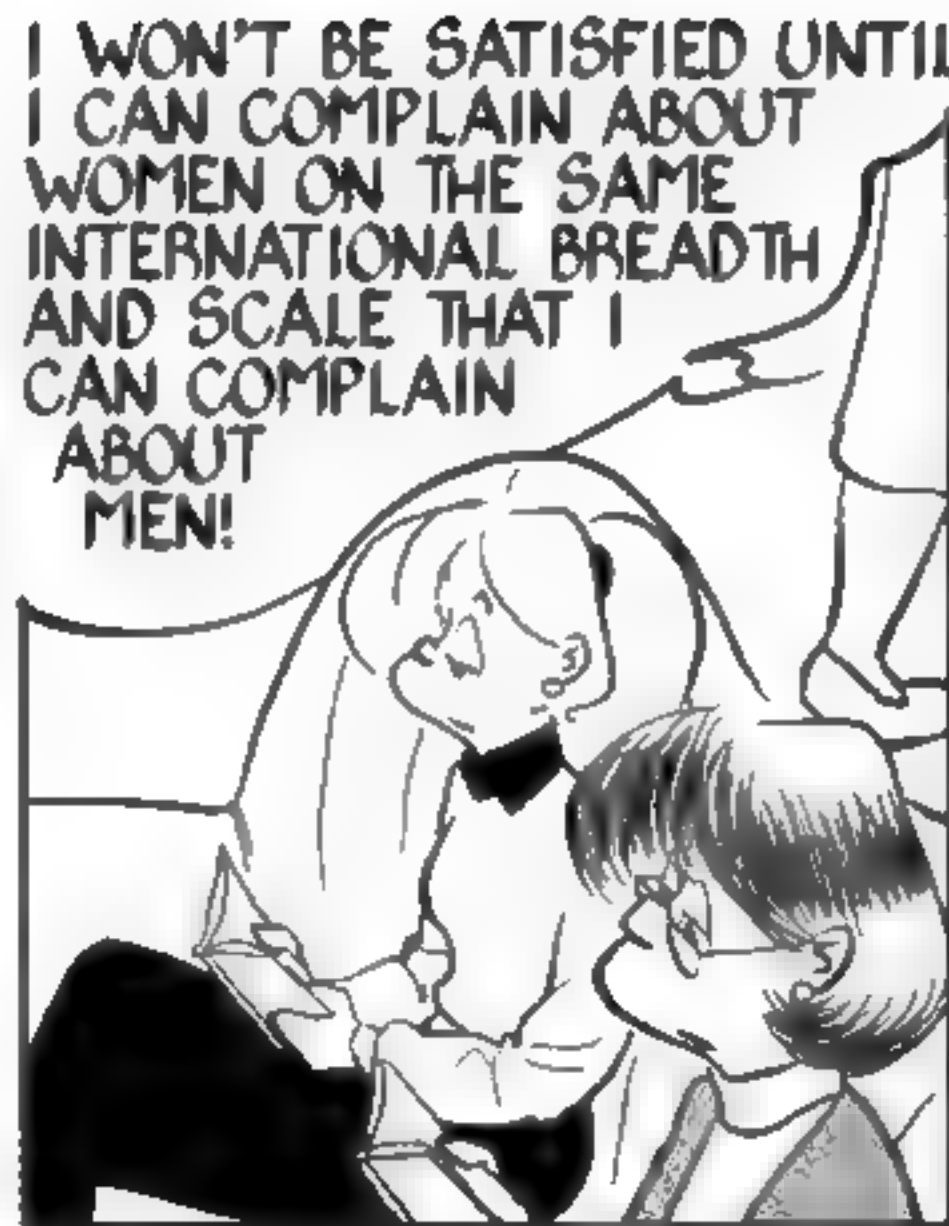
THAT MAN IN THE WHITE
HOUSE AND THAT MAN AT
THE U.N., AND THOSE MEN
DOMINATING THE EUROPEAN
UNION!...



WHAT WE NEED IN
GOVERNMENT IS
MORE WOMEN...
...LOTS MORE
WOMEN!



I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL
I CAN COMPLAIN ABOUT
WOMEN ON THE SAME
INTERNATIONAL BREADTH
AND SCALE THAT I
CAN COMPLAIN
ABOUT
MEN!

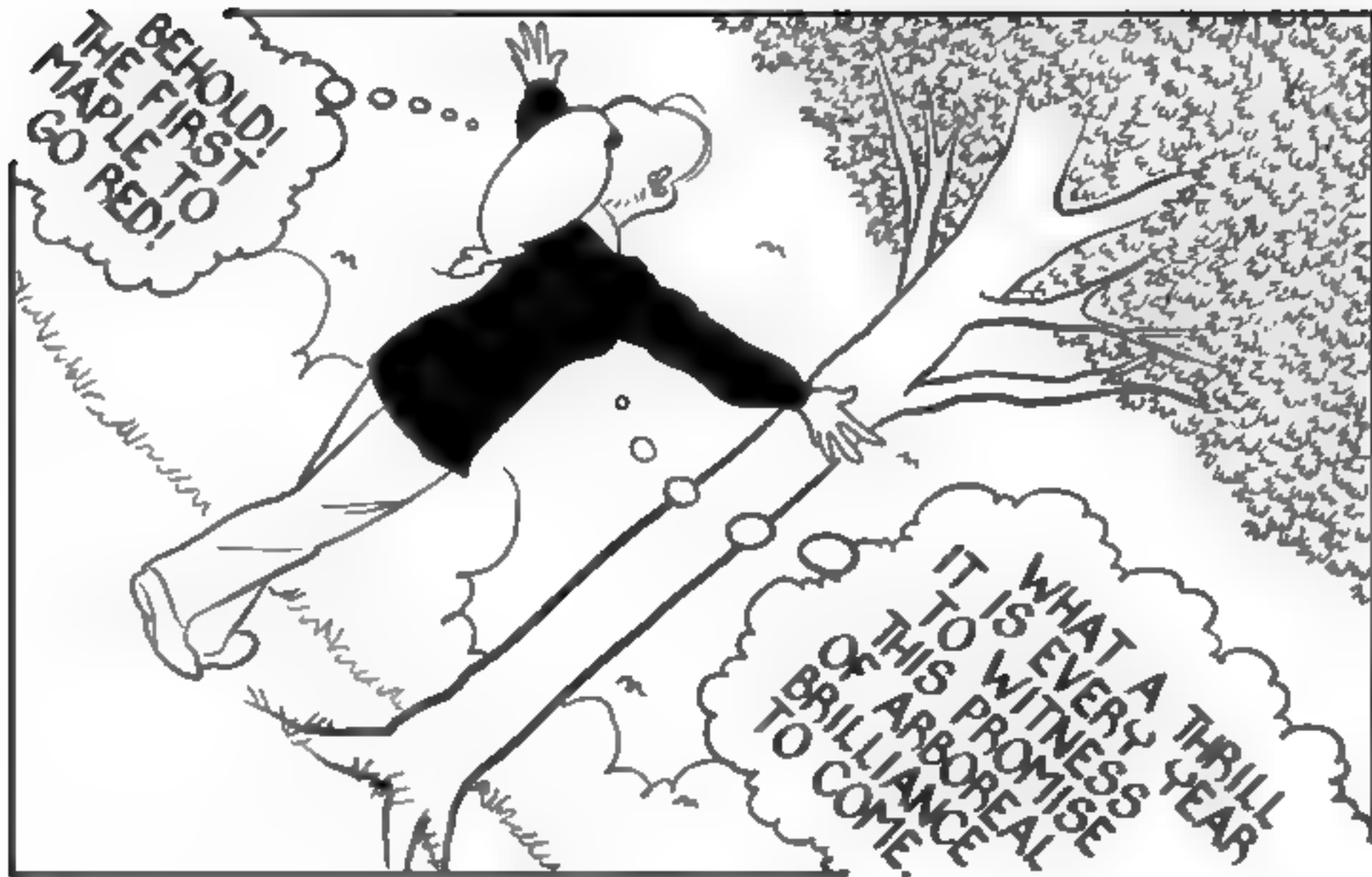


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SHE'S NOTHING
IF NOT
EGALITARIAN.



Brooke



THAT COUPLE HAVE
LIVED IN THE SAME
HOUSE FOR YEARS,
AND THEY'VE NEVER
MARRIED. IT'S
SO UN-
SEEMLY.

WELL
I, FOR
ONE,
PRAISE
THEM.

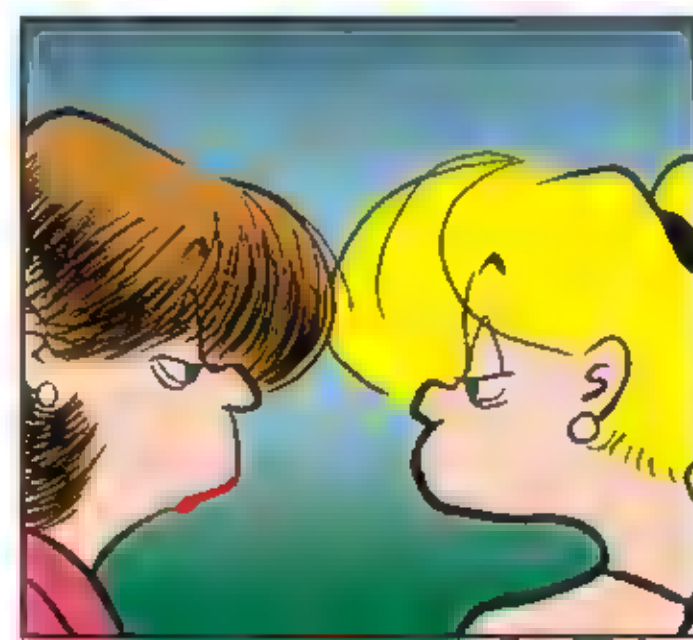
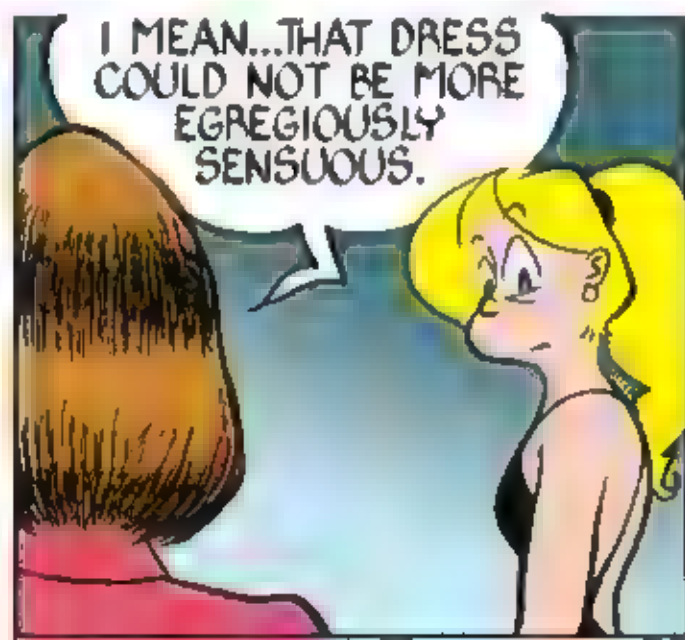
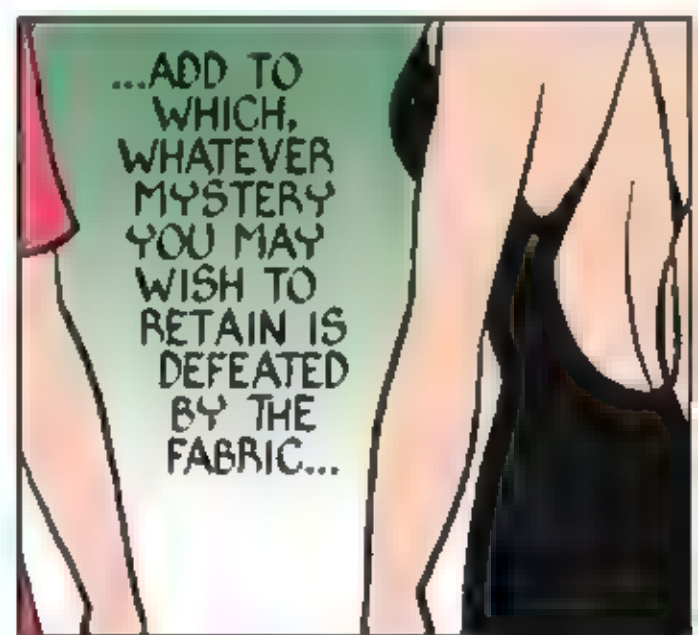
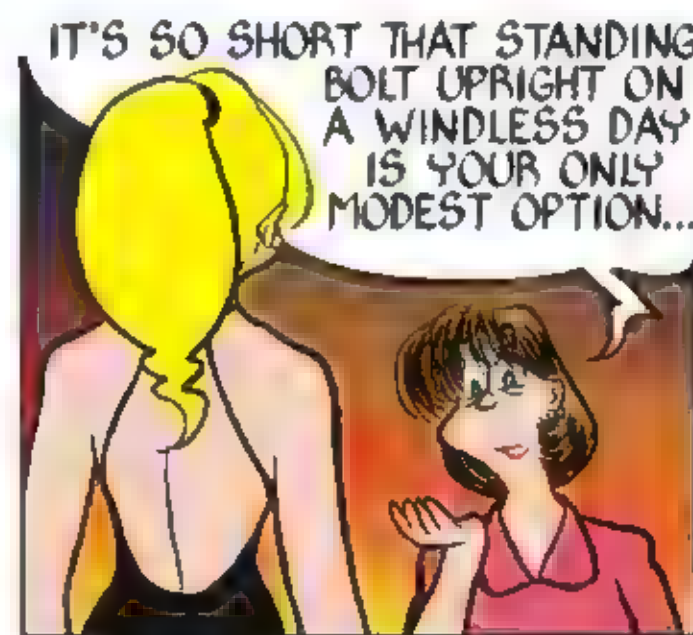
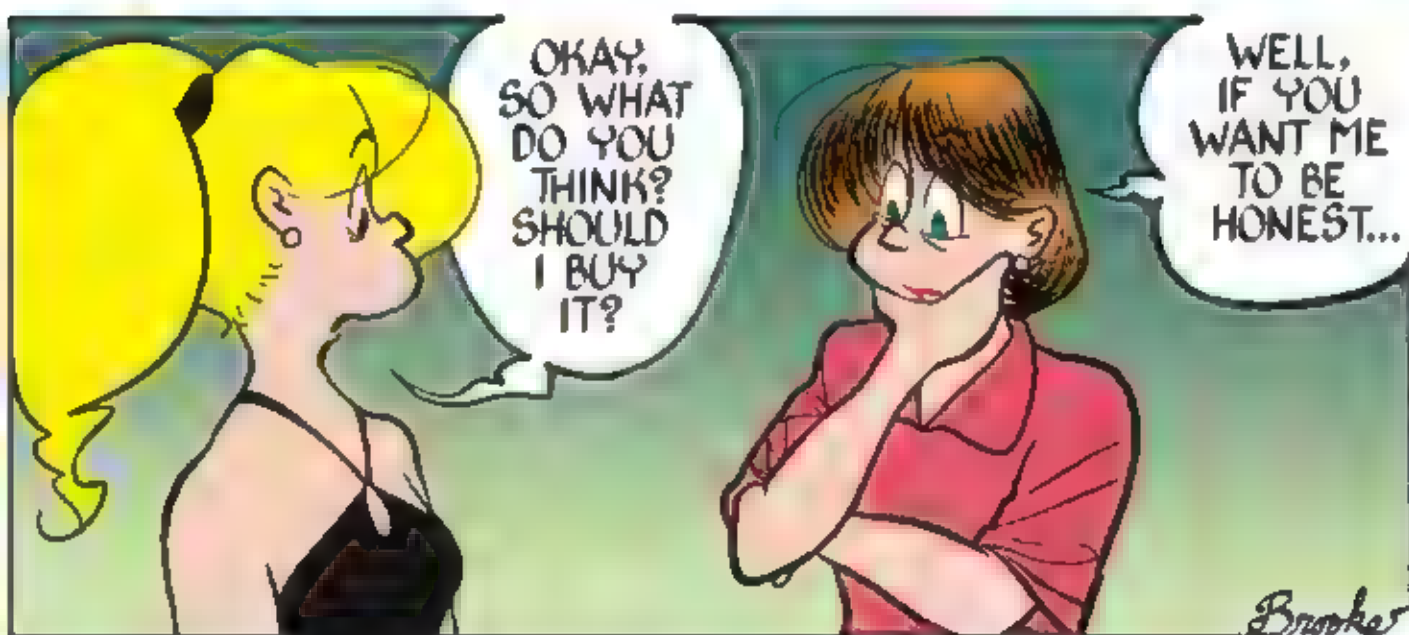
IN THE FACE OF CONVENTION
AND CULTURAL PRESSURE,
THEY ADHERE TO THEIR OWN
PRINCIPLES AND DO IT THEIR
OWN WAY WITHOUT
CAVING IN.
YOU HAVE
TO ADMIRE
THAT.

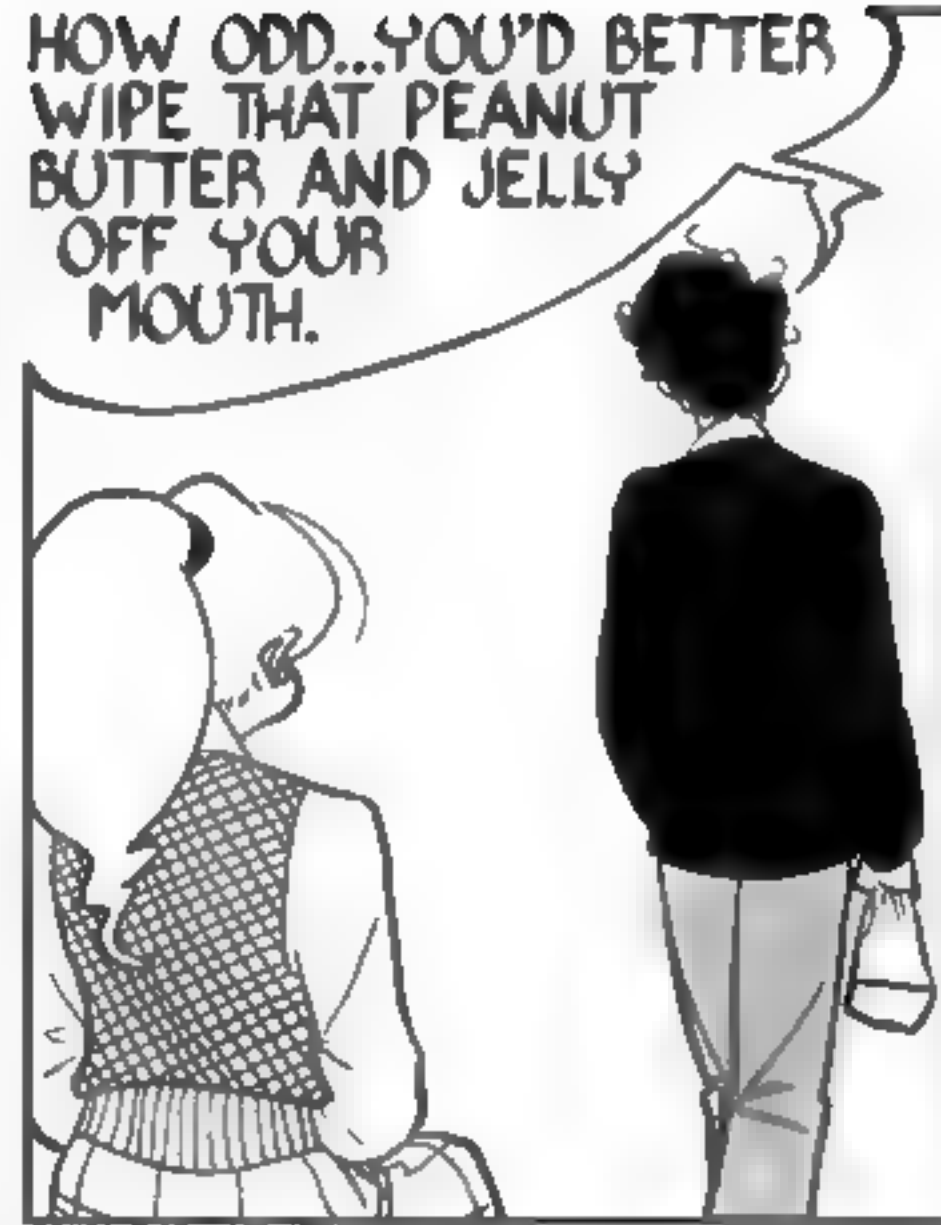
I ADMIRE IT WHEN
PEOPLE DO IT
MY OWN WAY
WITHOUT
CAVING
IN.

Brooke

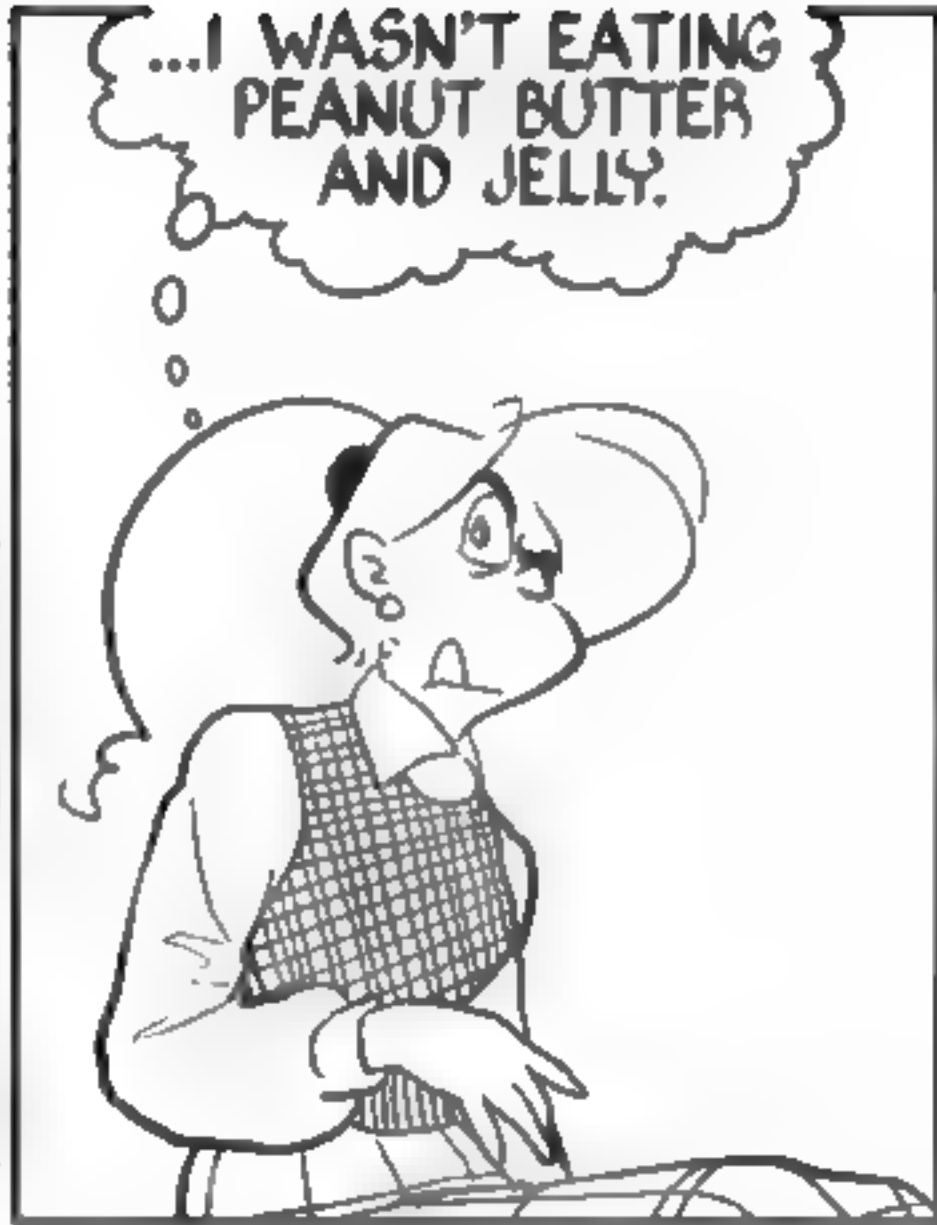
MOM,
ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

I WAS JUST
CLOBBERED BY
A FLYING
MANTRA.





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YOU KISSED ME WHEN I
DOZED OFF, AND I CAN
PROVE IT...YOU LEFT
PEANUT BUTTER
AND JELLY ON
MY LIPS.



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THE EVIDENCE
IS GONE!



YOU
HAVE
NO
PROOF.



Brooke

YOU CAN'T KISS ME TO
ERASE THE PROOF THAT
YOU KISSED ME! THAT'S
DESTROYING EVIDENCE
VERIFYING THAT YOU
COMMITTED AN ACT
BY COMMITTING
THE ACT IN ORDER
TO GET RID OF
THE EVIDENCE!

DID YOU KNOW YOU
TALK IN YOUR SLEEP?
I MEAN, A LOT?





CARTOONS AREN'T COMIC
ANYMORE. THEY'RE
TOO EDGY...NO
GOOD, OLD-
FASHIONED
HUMOR.



WHEN I WAS A GIRL THE
FUNNY PAGES WERE FUNNY!
CARTOONISTS KNEW WHAT
MADE PEOPLE LAUGH...
...THE TRIED AND TRUE.

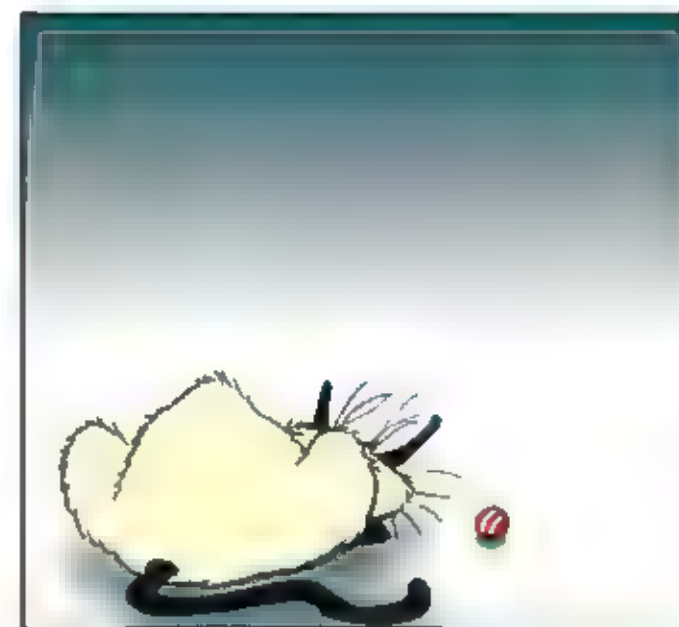


I.E., MARITAL HATRED TO
A COUNTERPOINT OF SLOTH,
ALCOHOLISM, GLUTTONY
AND PHYSICAL ABUSE, ALL
LEAVENED BY SCENES OF
CHILDREN EXACTING REVENGE
ON THEIR ELDERS?



MOM, GRAN'S SIDES ARE
SPLITTING...MEANWHILE, I'M
GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT
UNDER MY BED.





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MOM...WHY ARE YOU
STANDING ON YOUR
HEAD?



IT'S A PROTEST. THE WORLD
IS STANDING ON ITS HEAD.
I'M JUST JOINING IN.



Brooke



HAVE YOU ANY IDEA
HOW SCUFFY YOUR
SHOES LOOK?



MOM, TELL ME THE TRUTH...WHY ARE YOU REALLY STANDING ON YOUR HEAD?

I SAID, IT'S A PROTEST.

ARE YOU SURE? WHEN YOU START DOING SOMETHING UNUSUAL, IT FREQUENTLY MEANS YOU'RE DEPRESSED.

I'M NOT DEPRESSED.

HONESTLY?

HONESTLY.

LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND SAY THAT.

Brooke

FORGIVE ME,
BUT ISN'T THIS
PROTEST A
LITTLE
POINTLESS?

THE WORLD
IS UPSIDE-
DOWN,
ERGO, SO
AM I.



BUT
WHO IS
GOING TO
KNOW?

IT'S
CONSCIENTIOUS.
NOBODY NEEDS
TO SEE IT.



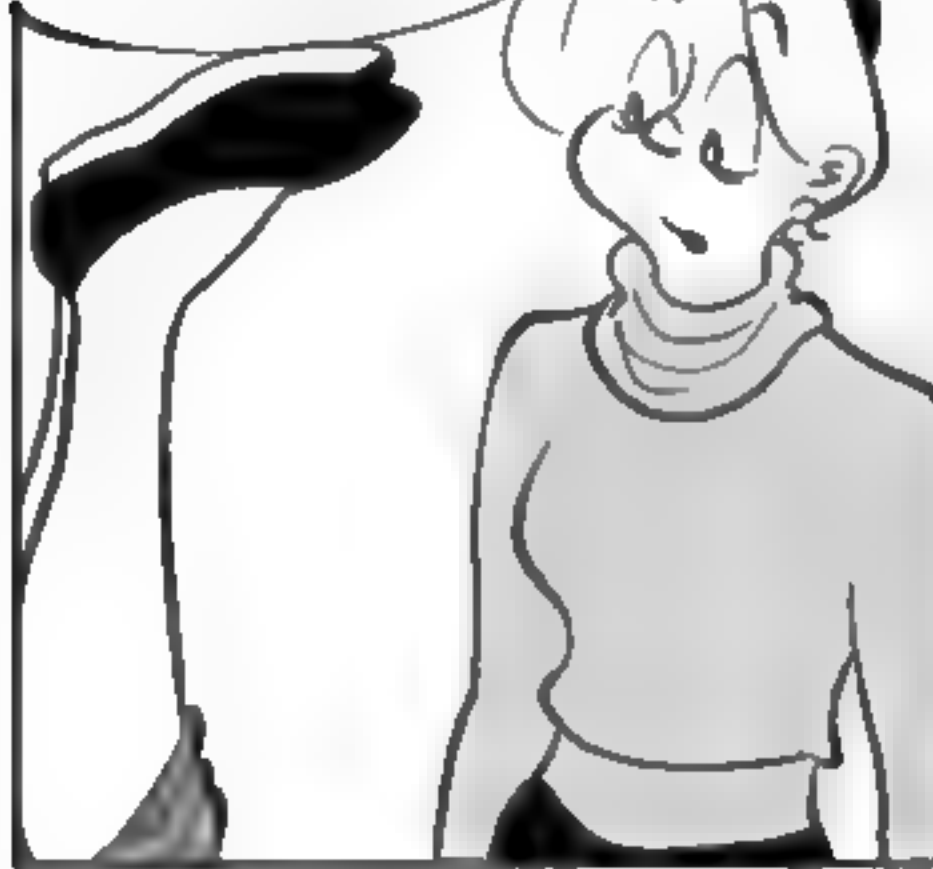
FORTUNATE, GIVEN THAT
YOU ARE AS OLD AS
YOU ARE AND LOOK AS
SILLY AS YOU LOOK.



AND DON'T THINK
THE GESTURE YOU'RE
MAKING WITH YOUR
TOES IS LOST
ON ME.



MOM, ELLIOTT'S HERE. HE'D
LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING
TO YOU ABOUT THIS
PROTEST YOU'RE
MOUNTING.



Brooke

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ISN'T THERE
SOMETHING
YOU WANTED
TO SAY!?

DON'T TRY TO DISCOURAGE
MY PROTEST, MOTHER...
THE WORLD IS
STANDING ON
ITS HEAD, AND
SO AM I!



I WOULDN'T HEAR
OF IT, DEAR.

THEN
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



Brooke

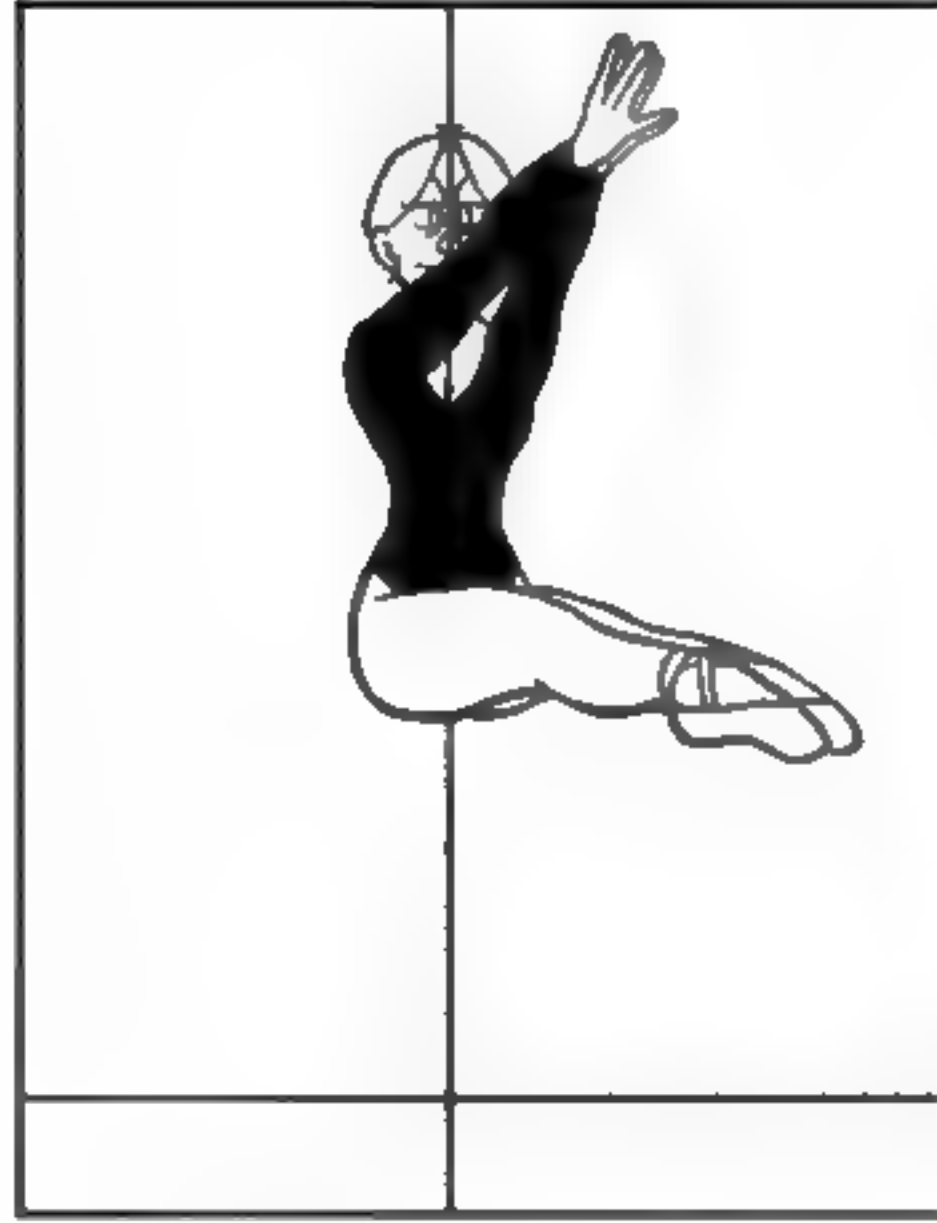
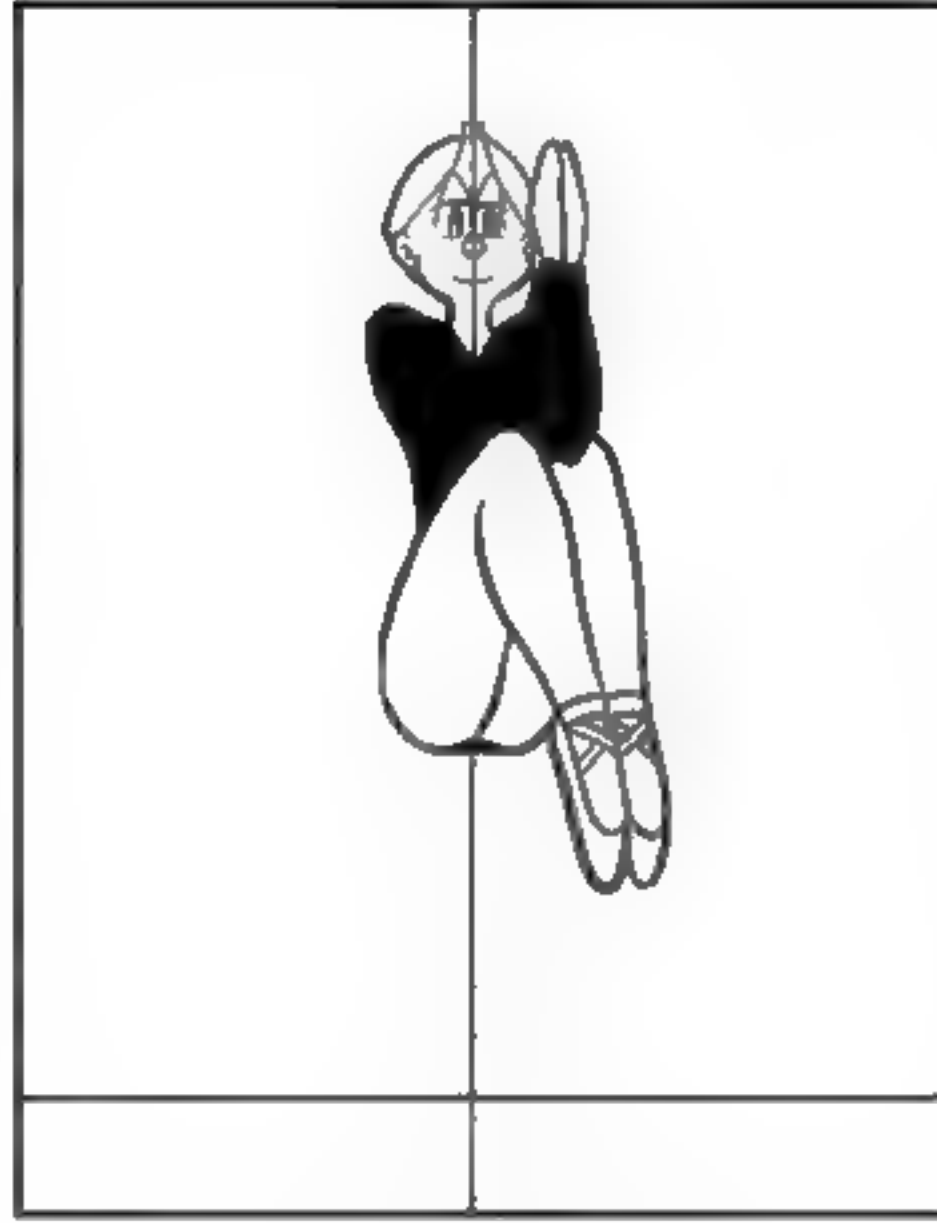
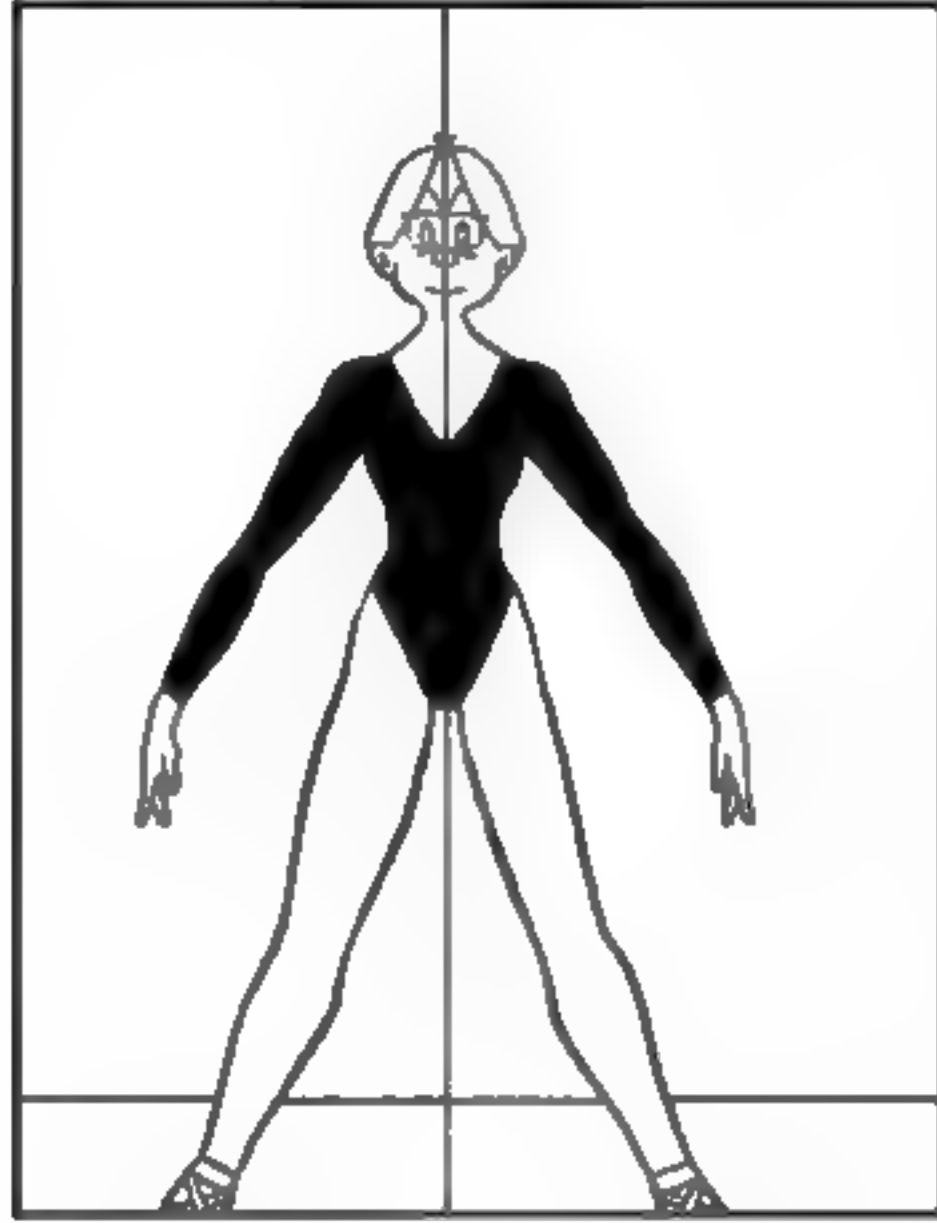
JUST THINKING
ABOUT VARICOSE
VEINS.



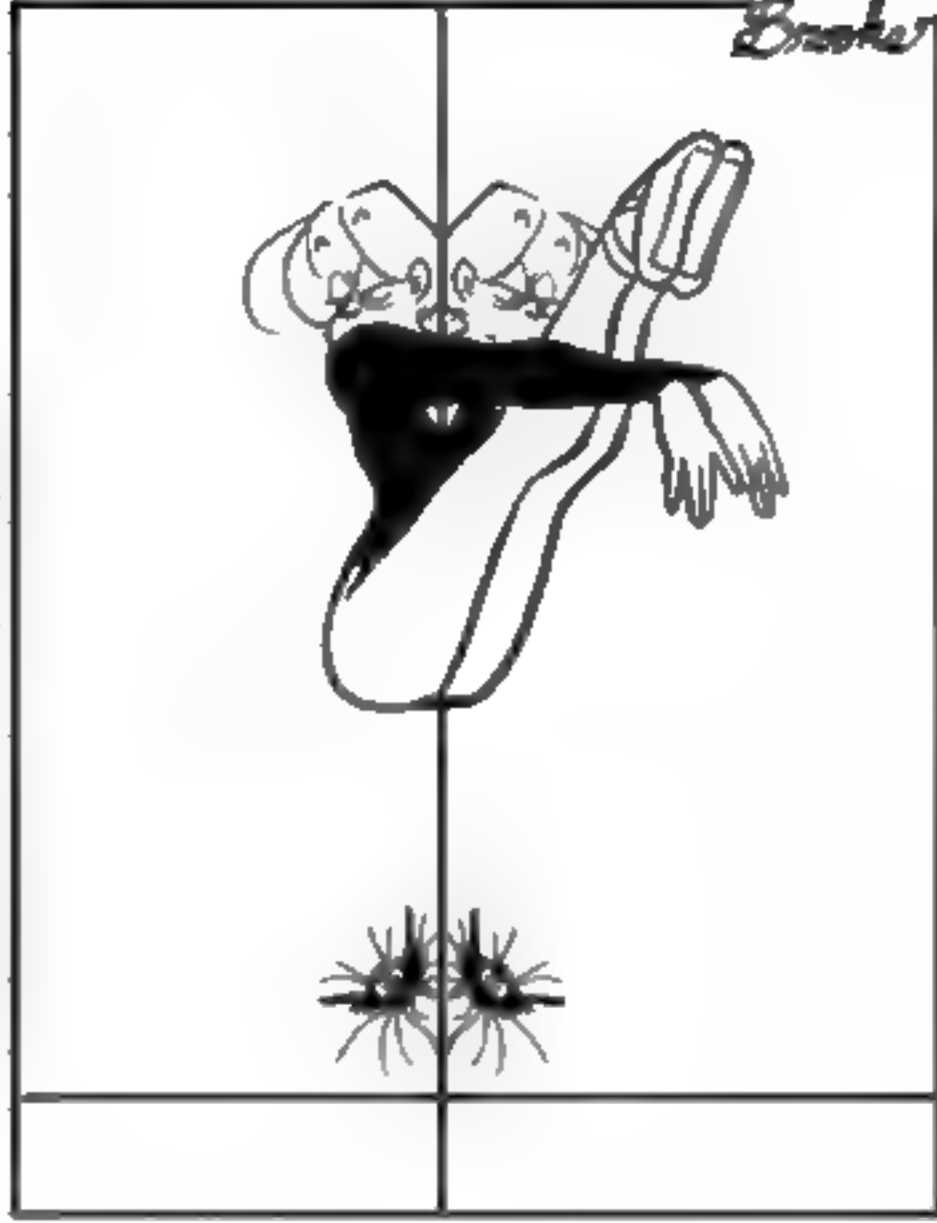
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IS THE
PROTEST
OVER?

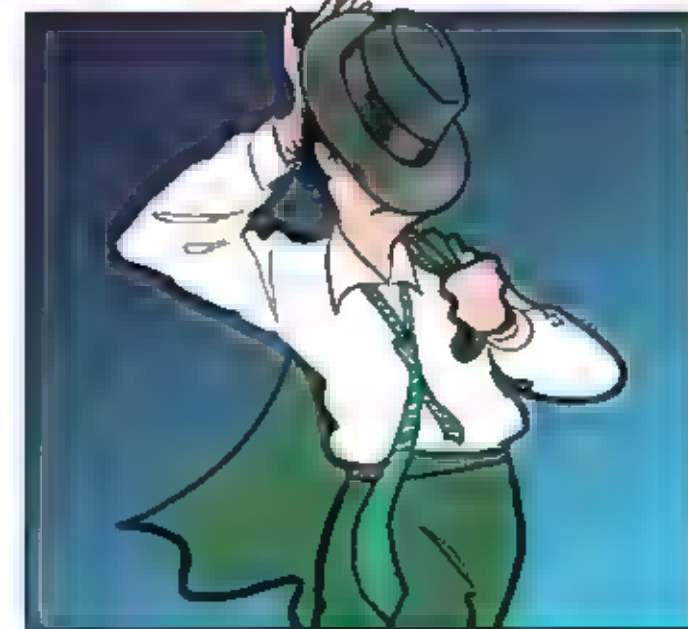
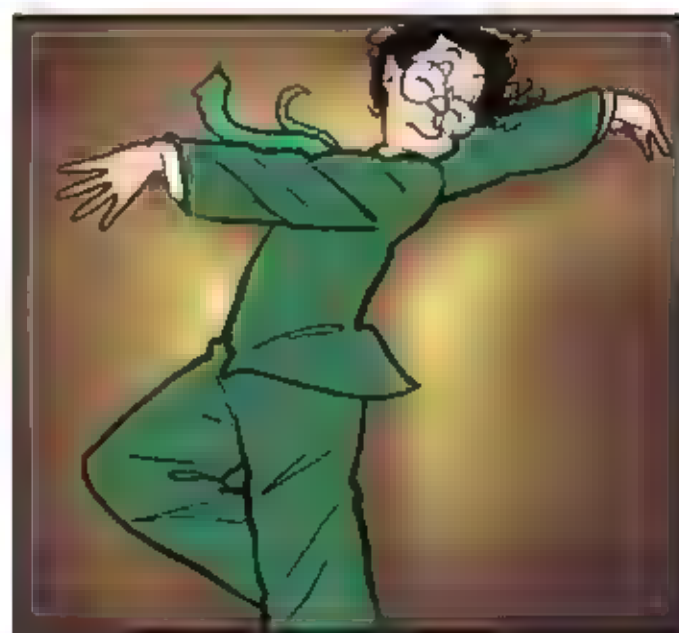
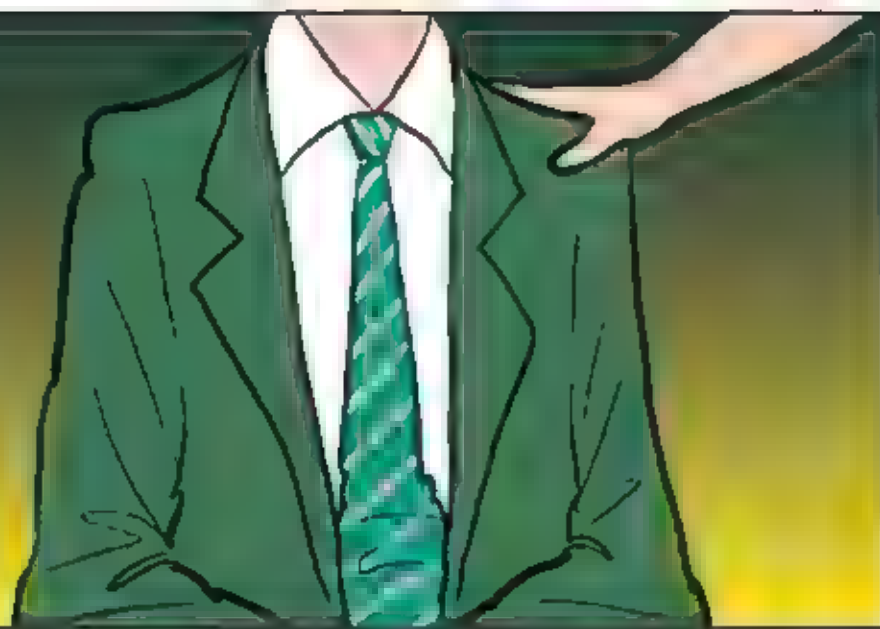




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9 CHICKWEED LANE



WHO IS THAT GIRL TALKING
TO? SHE KEEPS
LOWERING HER
VOICE WHEN I
COME AROUND.



WHAT'S SHE SO SECRETIVE
ABOUT? IT'S PROBABLY
SOME BOY.



SHE SHOULD BE ASHAMED,
TALKING ABOUT THINGS
THAT CAN'T BE SAID ABOVE
A GUILTY WHISPER.
I'M APPALLED!



WHO
WAS
THAT
ON THE
PHONE?

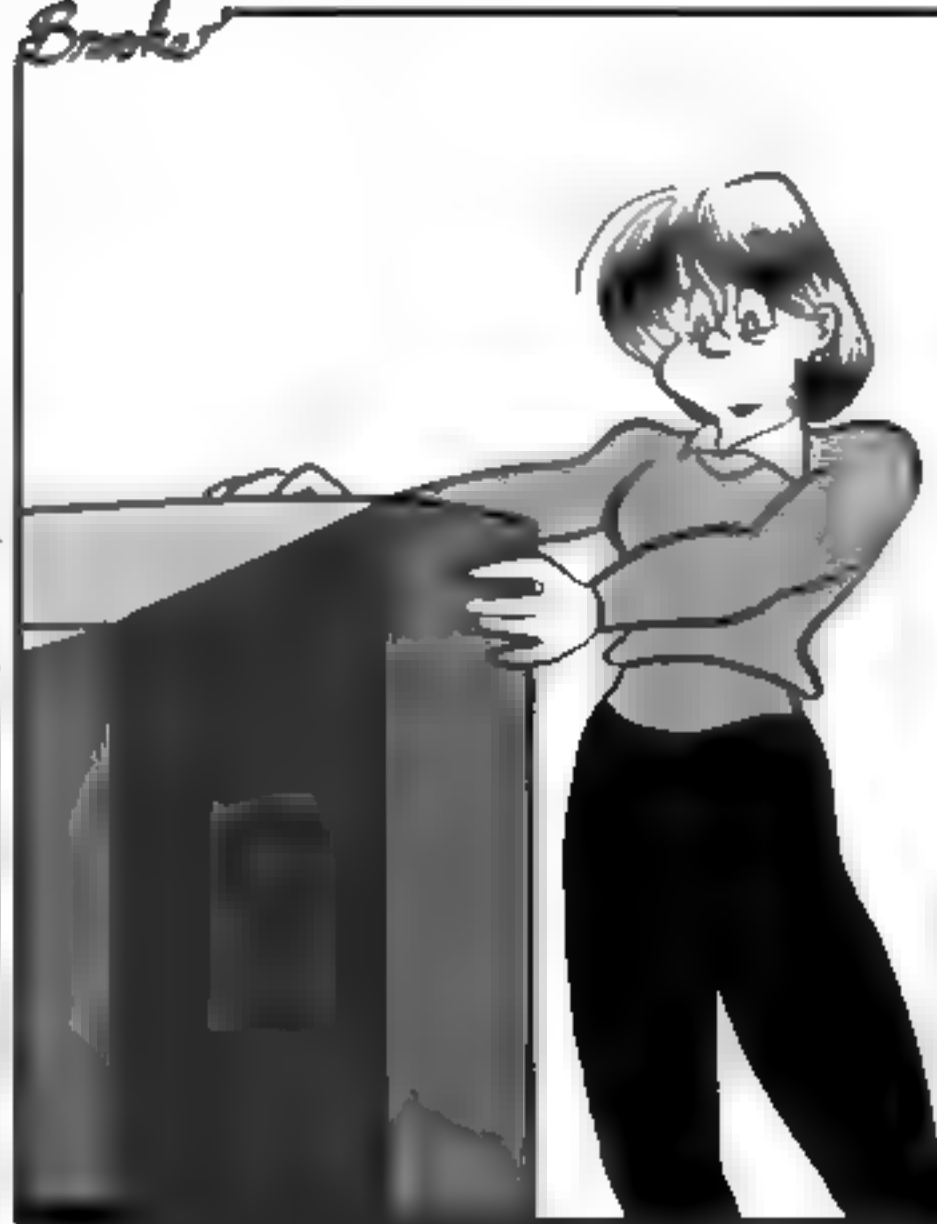


THE REFERENCE
LIBRARIAN. BUT
DON'T TELL
GRAN. IT WILL
RUIN HER FUN.





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THE PROBLEM IS YOUR NEGA-
TIVE MOOD, MOTHER. YOU
FIND FAULT, YOU COMPLAIN,
YOU ALWAYS
SEE THE
DARK SIDE.



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS
SMILE. SMILING CHANGES
YOUR MOOD, YOUR WHOLE
OUTLOOK.



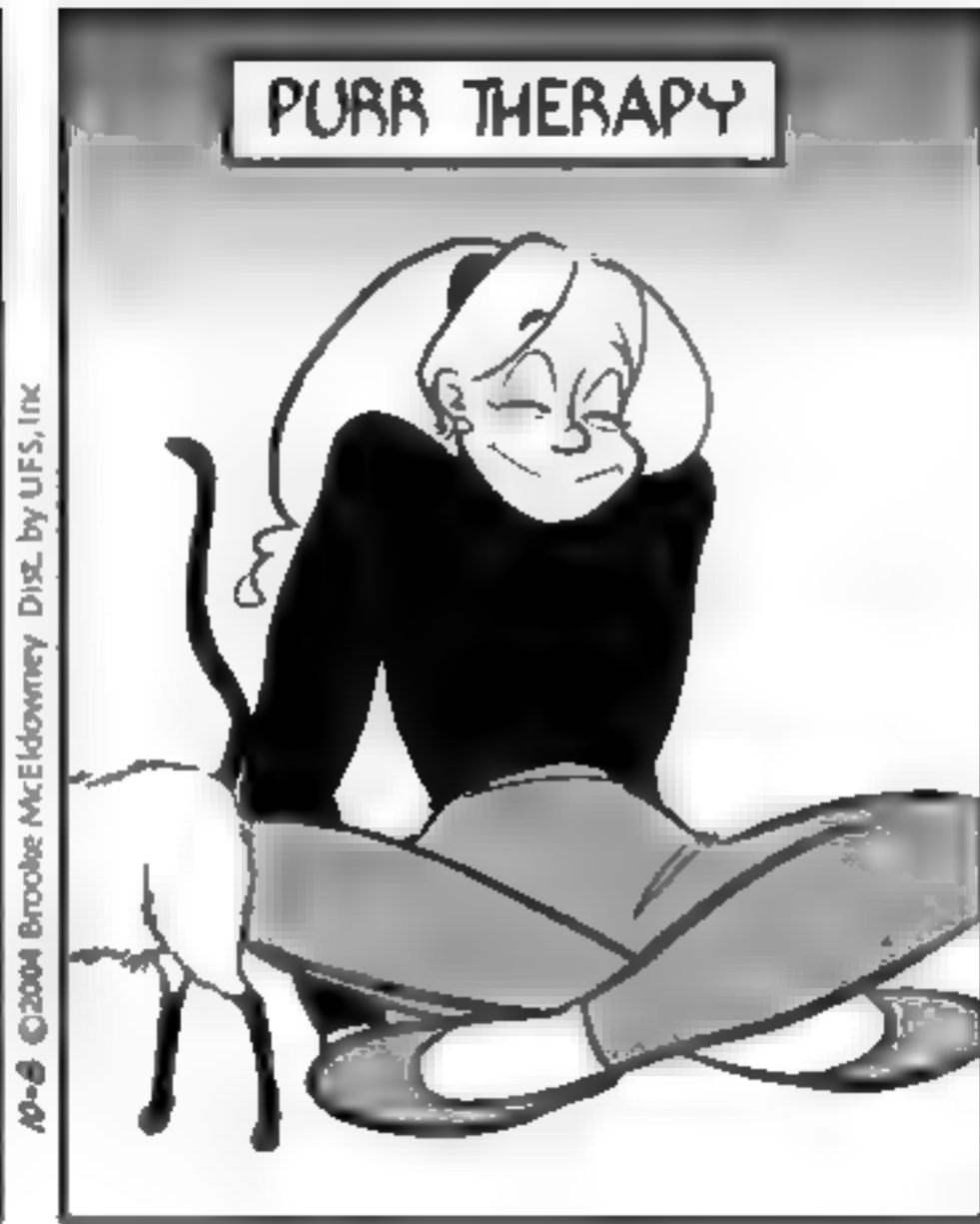
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I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT YOU,
BUT THIS ISN'T
DOING A WHOLE
LOT FOR MINE.

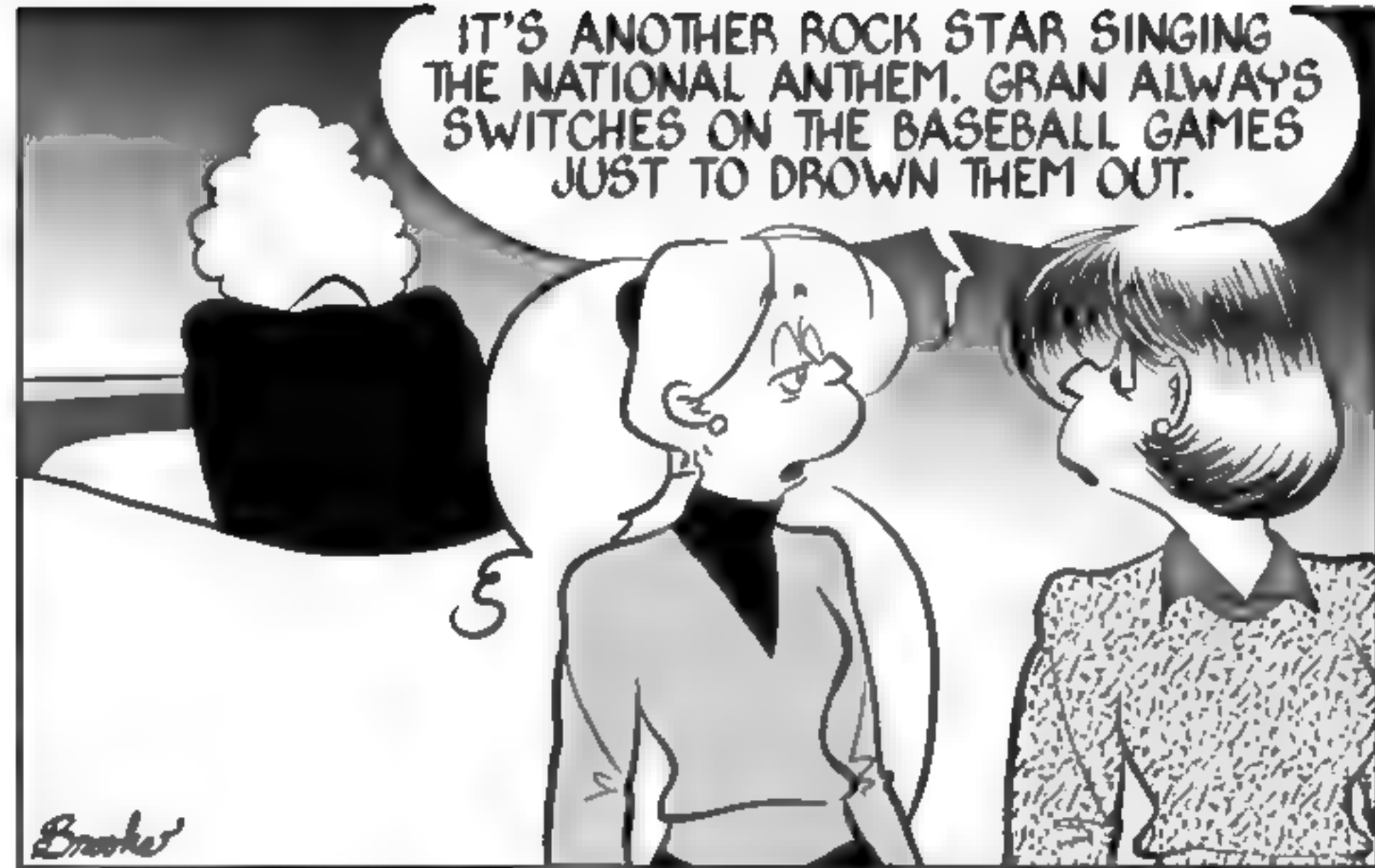


Brooker

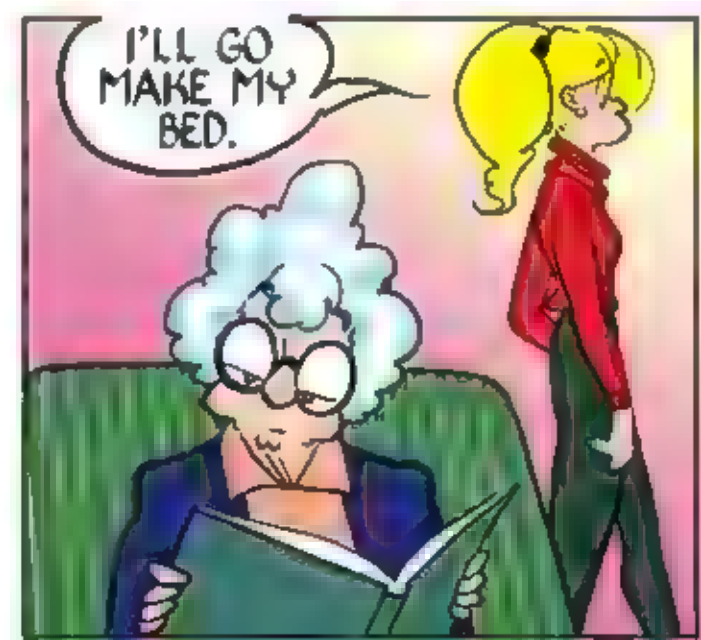
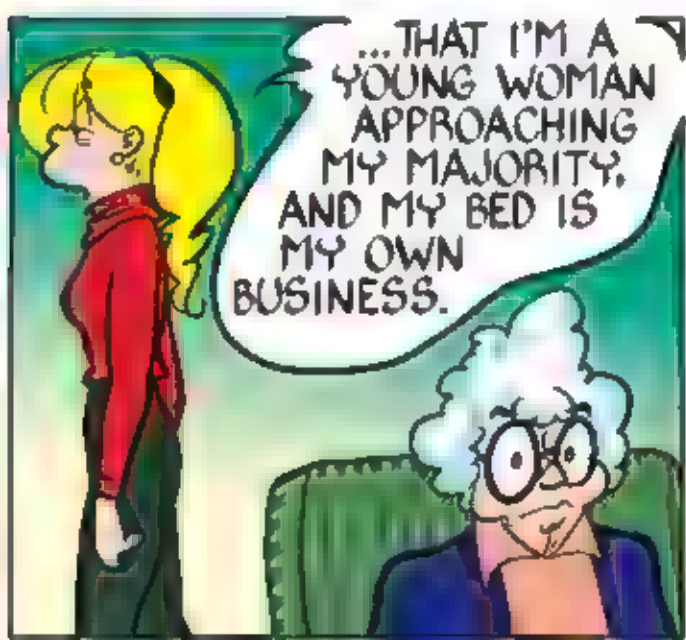
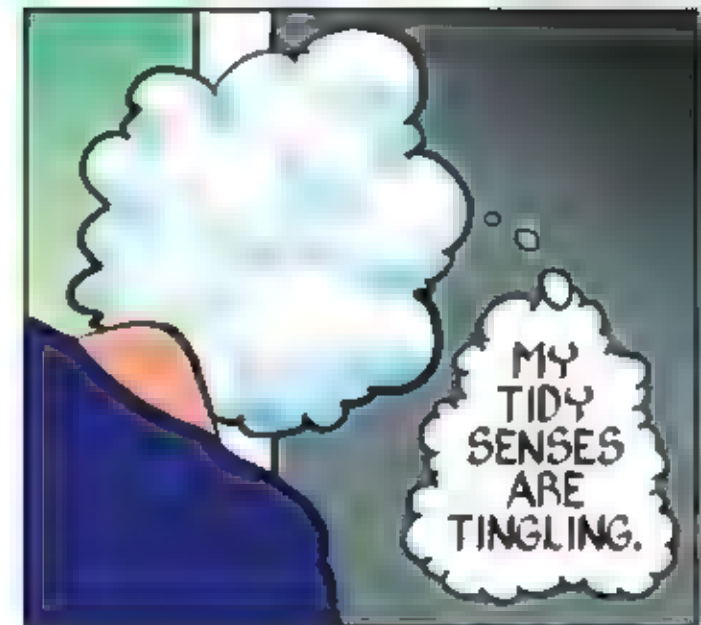




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9 CHICKWEED LANE

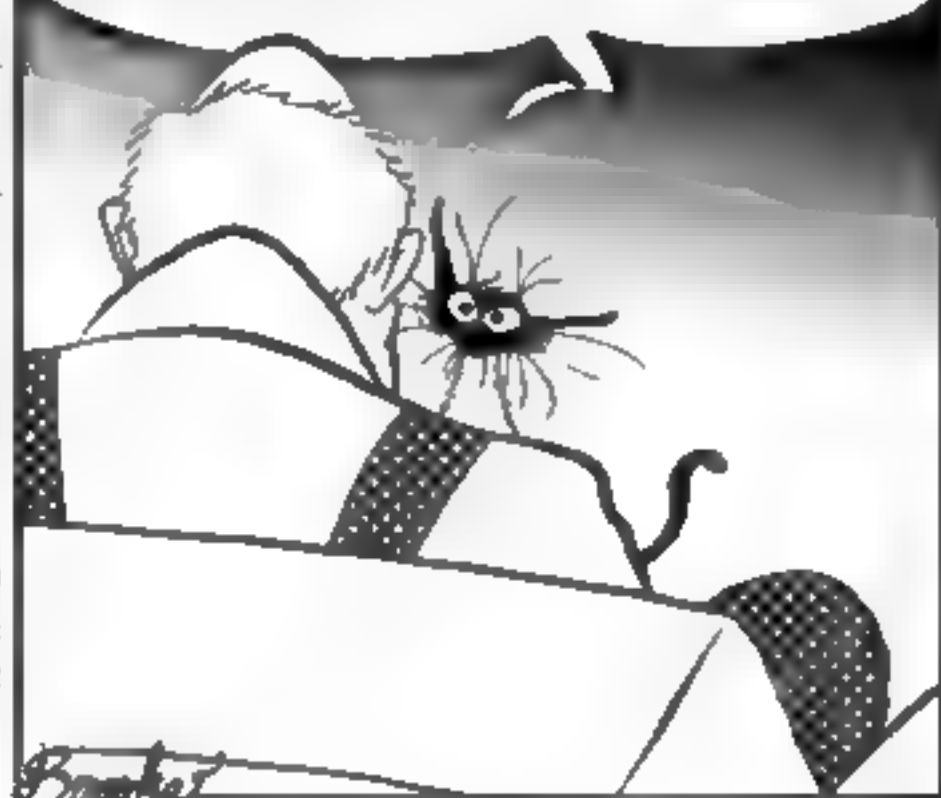


I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW,
MY DEAR CAT, THAT AS AN
EMISSARY OF AN ALIEN
RACE, I AM CAPABLE OF
COMMUNICATION
WITH ALL
SPECIES ON
YOUR WORLD.



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ERGO, I SEE IN YOU JUST
AS MUCH A REPRESENTATIVE
OF YOUR PLANET AND ITS
INTERESTS AS ANY HUMAN
BEING OR WHALE OR
CATERPILLAR OR MOLE.



Brooke

CURIOUSLY, SHE SAID SHE
SAW IN ME ONE OF THE
MOST COMPELLING
ARGUMENTS SHE'D
EVER ENCOUNTERED
IN FAVOR OF
NEUTERING.



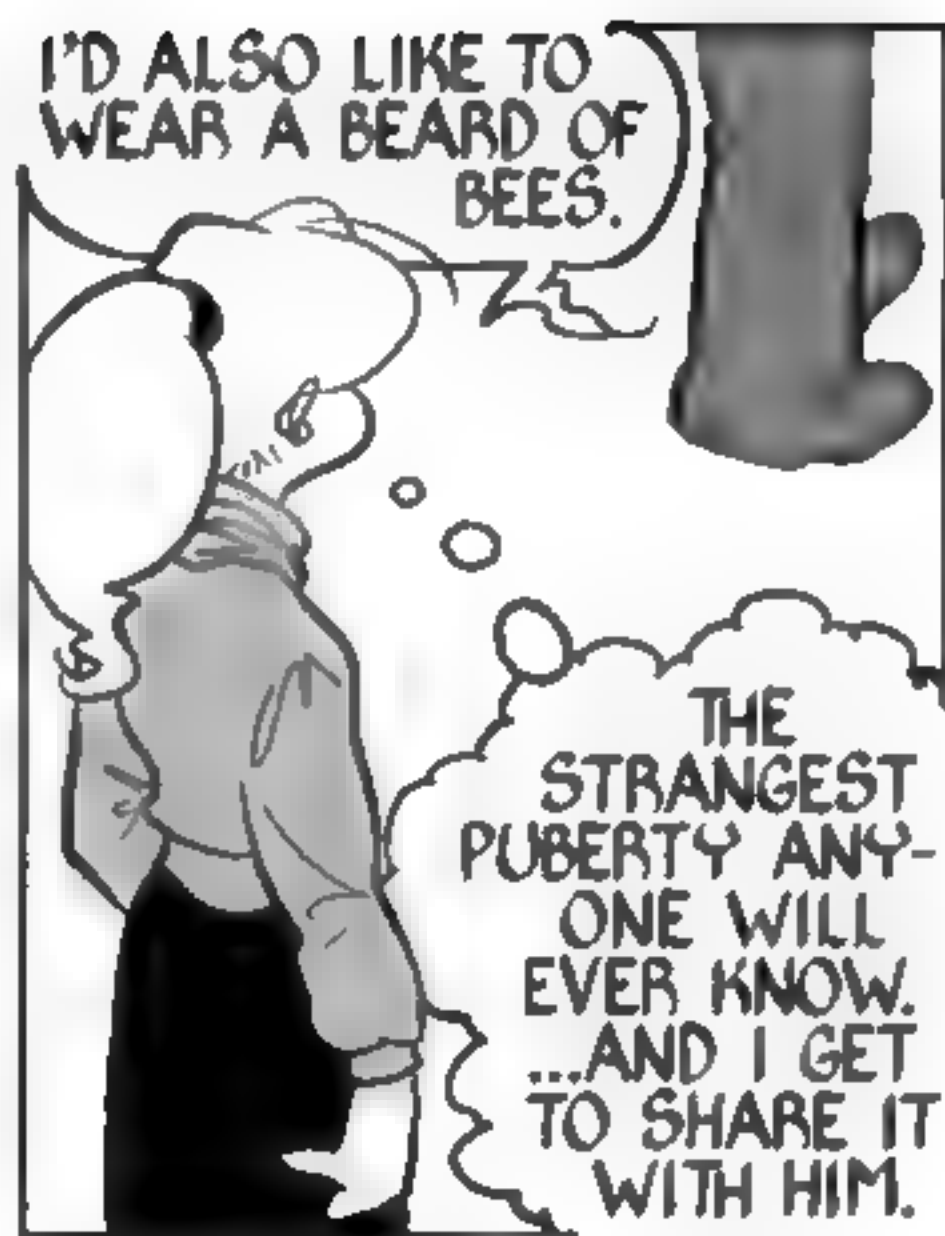
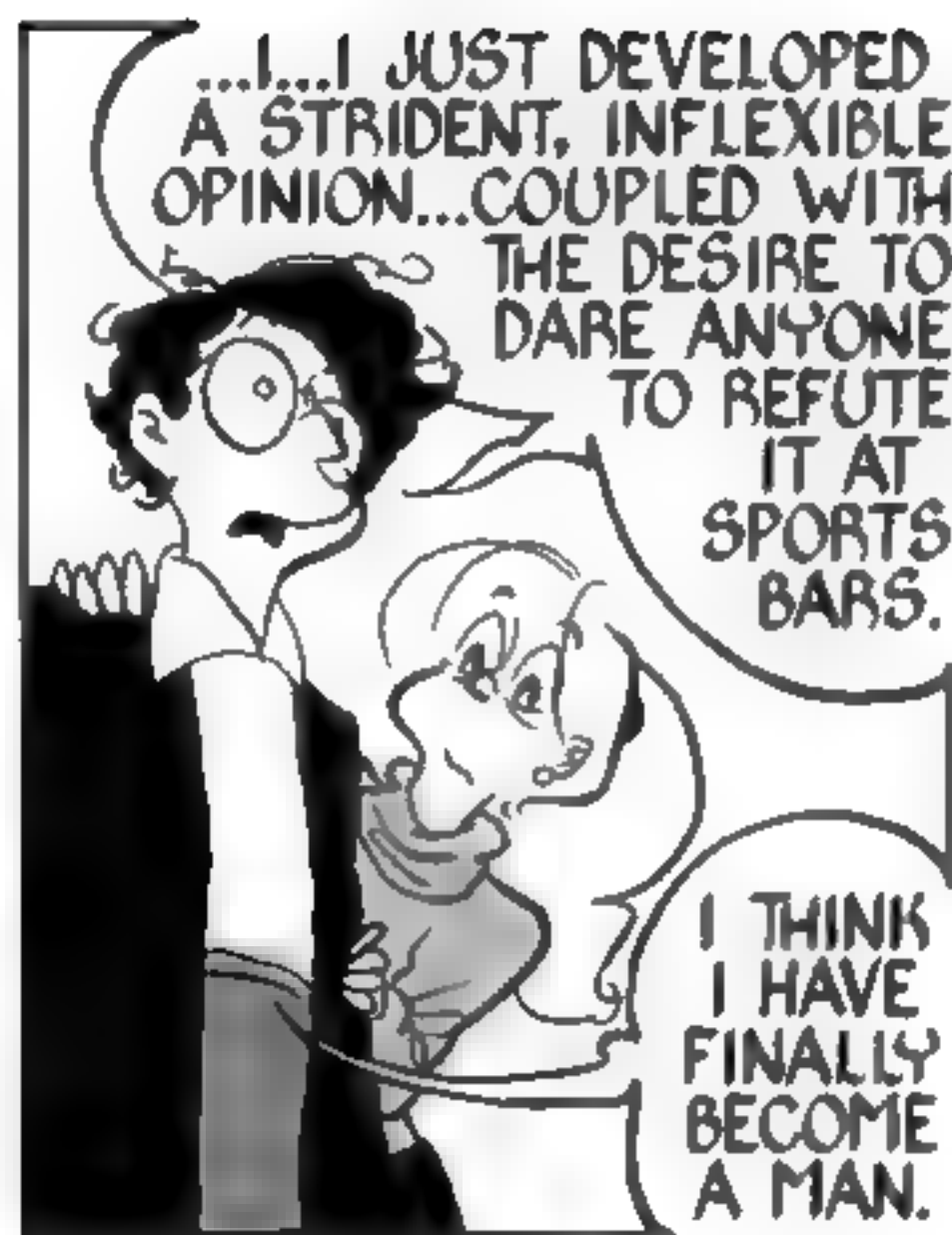
PRECISELY WHAT THE
WHALE, THE CATERPILLAR
AND THE MOLE SAID.







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PREVIOUSLY, I HELD NO
OPINION. ALL I EVER STATED
WAS FACT...FACT UNDILUTED
BY PERSONAL
BIAS.



BUT NOW MY OPINION
CANNOT BE CALLED, BY
ANY STRETCH OF THE
IMAGINATION,
FACT.

AND
WHAT
IS IT?



THAT MARY IS
GLORIOUSLY
BEAUTIFUL...
...OBVIOUSLY AN
OPINION...ONE NO
SANE PERSON
WOULD EVER
PORTRAY
AS FACT.



I HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT
THE VELOCITY AT WHICH
HE'D PLUMMET DOWN A
STAIRWELL...BUT I'M
WILLING TO
ESTABLISH
IT AS
FACT.



IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
THAT WHEN YOU INSIST
MARY IS BEAUTIFUL, YOU
ARE UTTERING AN OPINION...



CALLING ANY GIRL
BEAUTIFUL IS A SUBJECTIVE
REACTION...NOT A FACT.



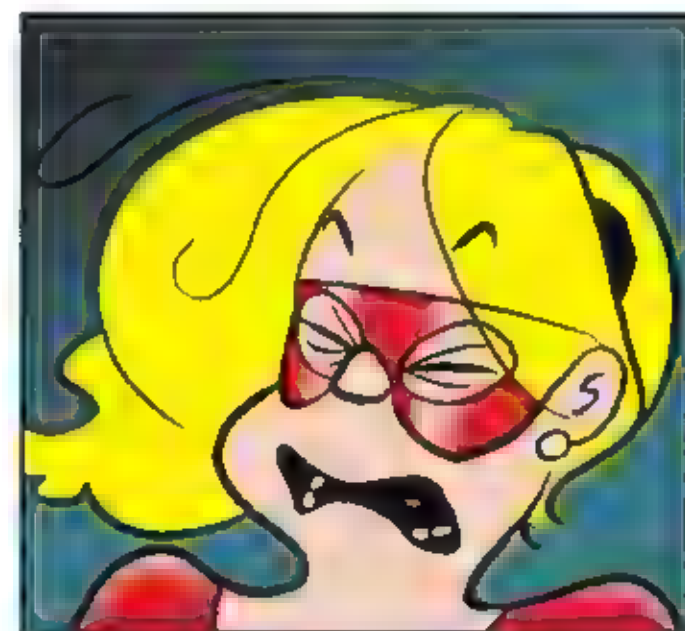
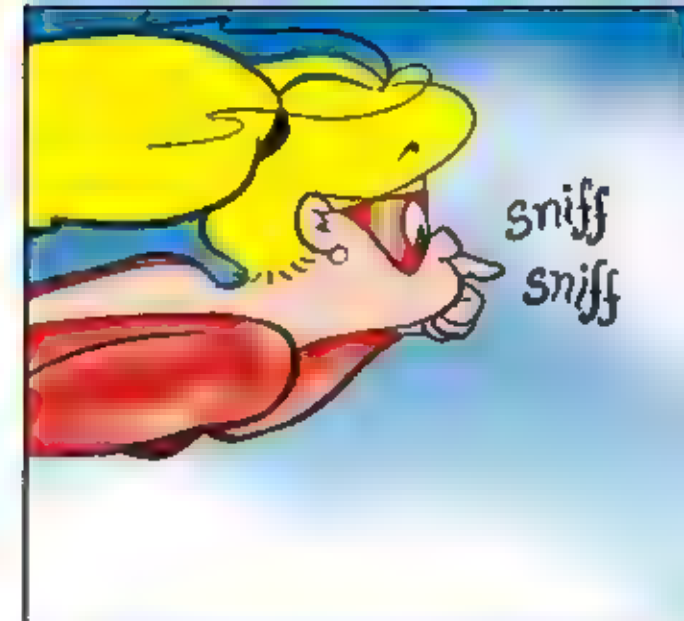
BUT YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL...AND
THAT IS A FACT.



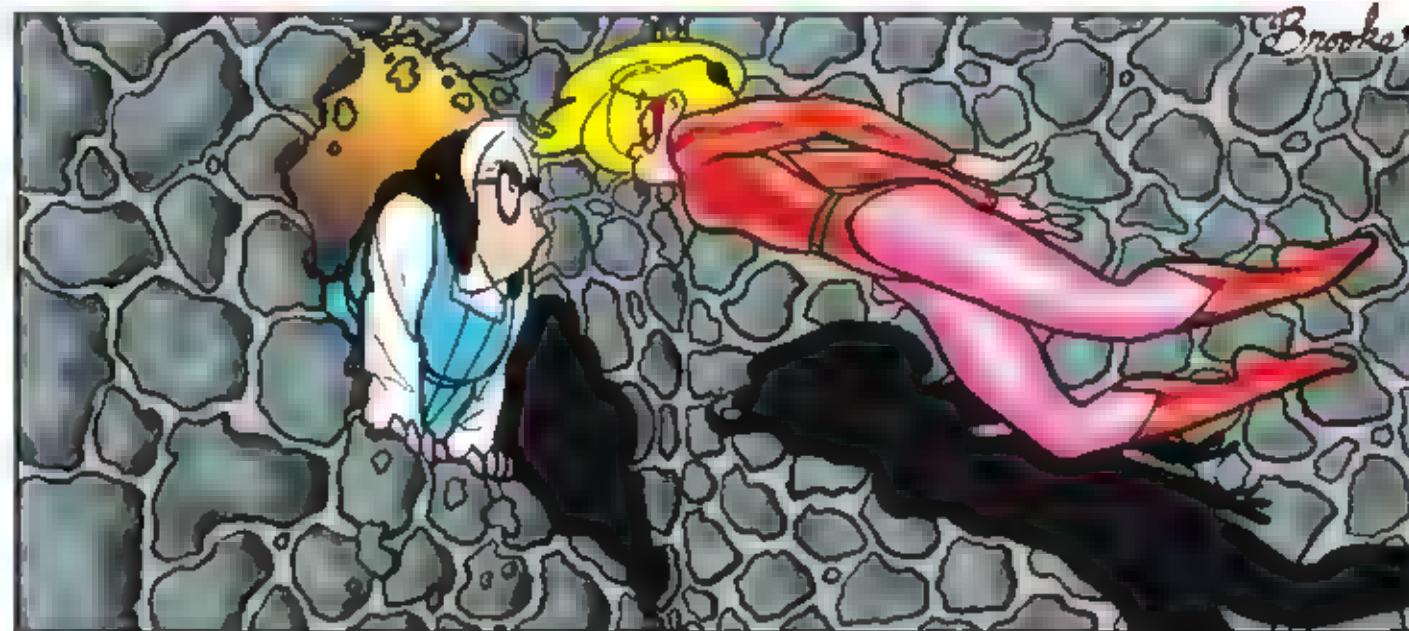
YOU'RE LOOKING
PLEASED.



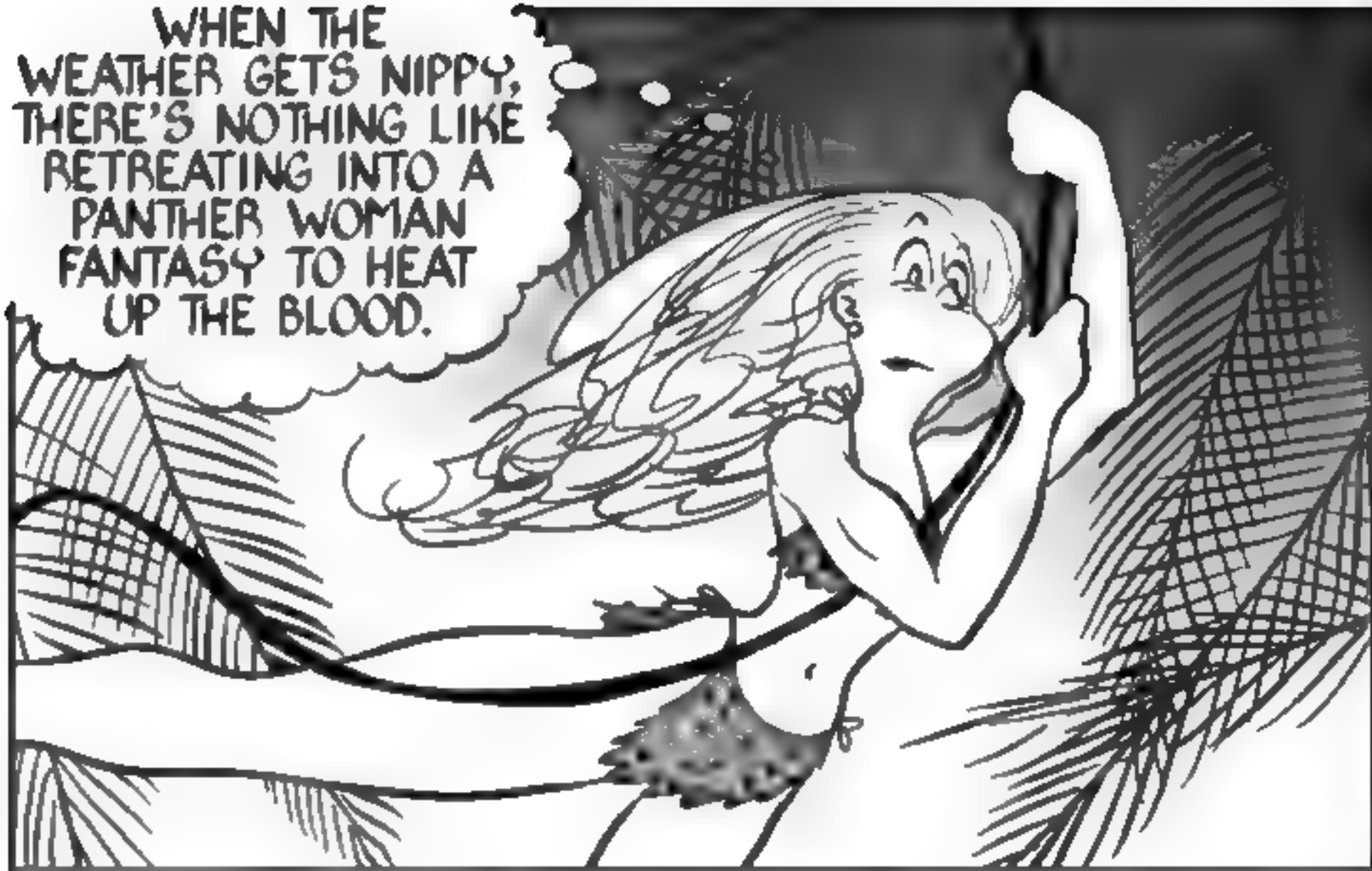
I JUST
LOST AN
ARGUMENT
TO AMOS.



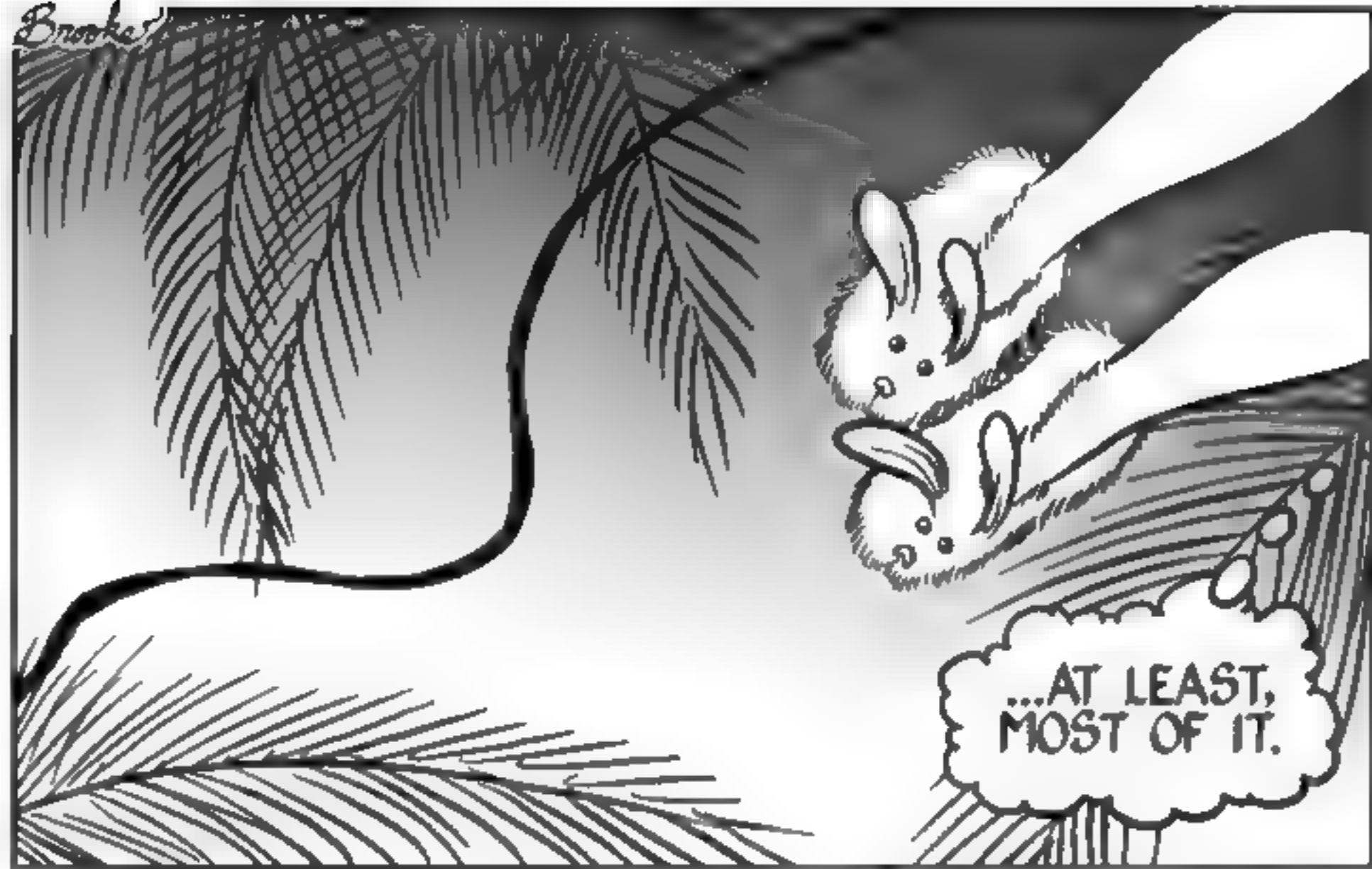
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WHEN THE
WEATHER GETS NIPPY,
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE
RETREATING INTO A
PANTHER WOMAN
FANTASY TO HEAT
UP THE BLOOD.



Brooke



...AT LEAST,
MOST OF IT.

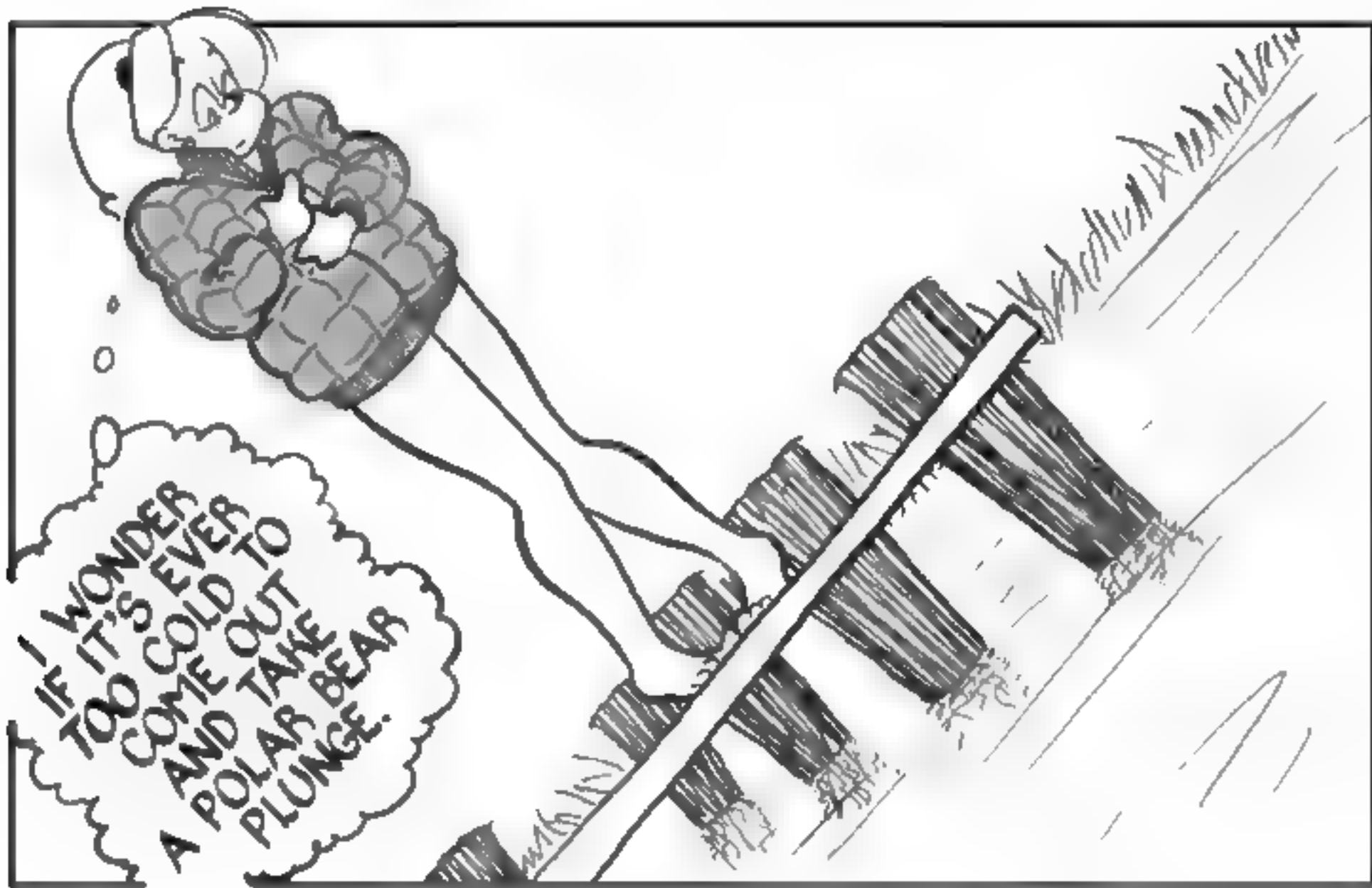
LAUGHTER
IS THE BEST
MEDICINE...



Broder

...ALTHOUGH
SOMETIMES
THE DOSES
CAN TASTE
A LITTLE
TART.





MAY I ASK YOU
A QUESTION?

SURE.

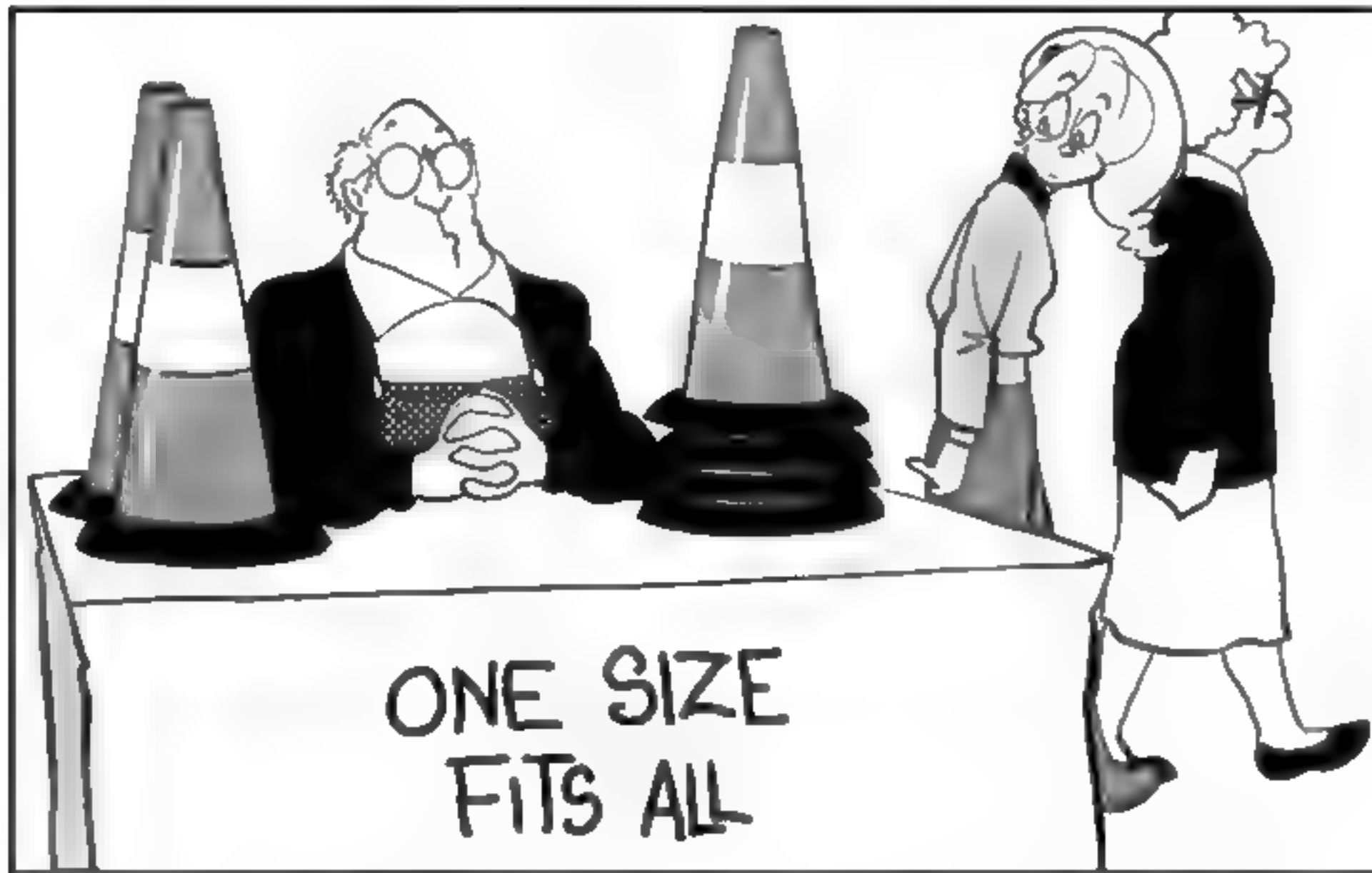
A VERY INTIMATE,
PERSONAL QUESTION?

UM,
ALL...
...RIGHT.

A PROBING, INCISIVE, DEEPLY
INTROSPECTIVE, INTENSELY-
REVEALING-PSYCHOLOGICAL-
EXAMINATION-OF-THE
DARKEST-CORNERS
OF-YOUR-ID TYPE
OF PERSONAL
QUESTION?

I HATE IT WHEN
SHE KNOTS MY
SHOELACES
TOGETHER AND
STRIDES AWAY.

Broken



I'M BORED. FEEL LIKE
ESCAPING
INTO OUR
ALTER
EGOS?

SURE.

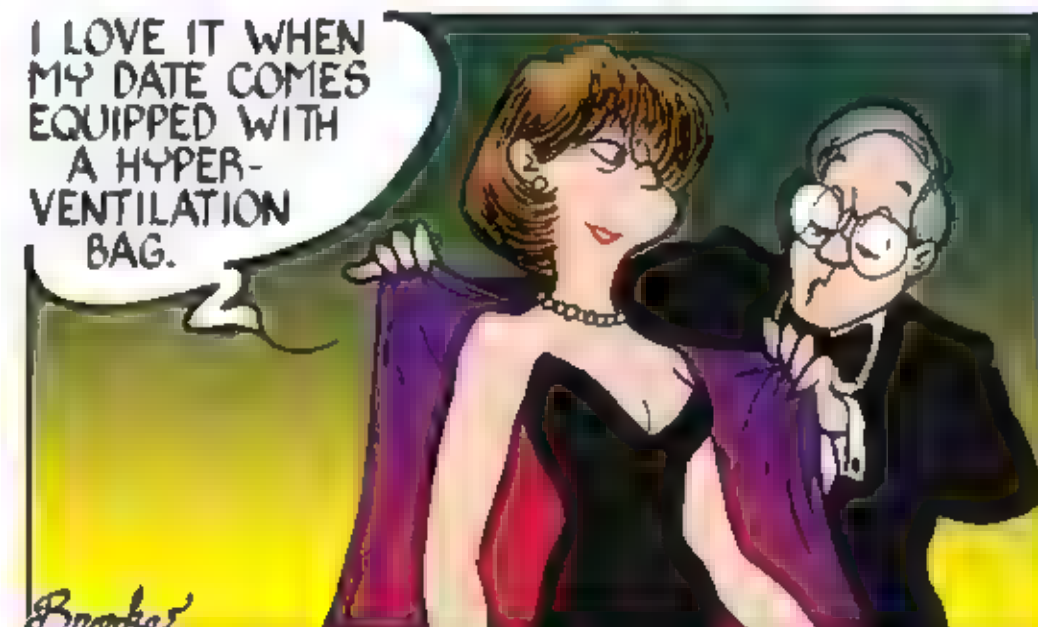
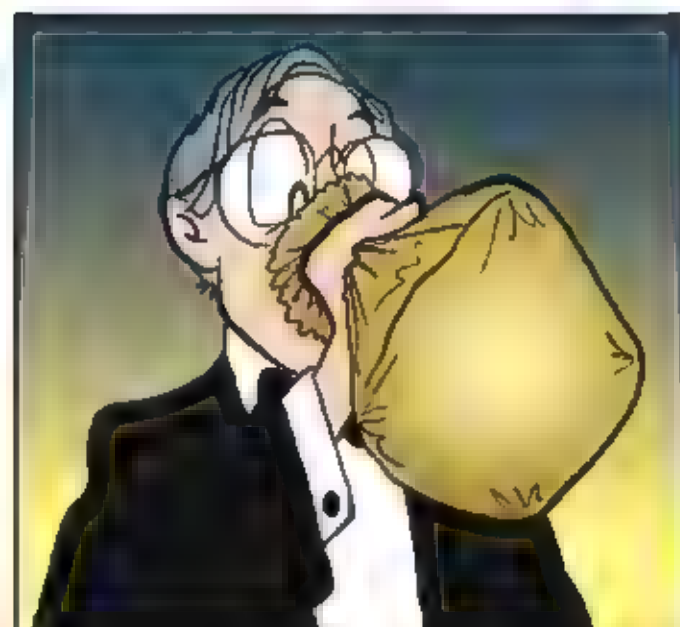
OKAY...
NOW
WHAT?

I DUNNO...
SCRABBLE?

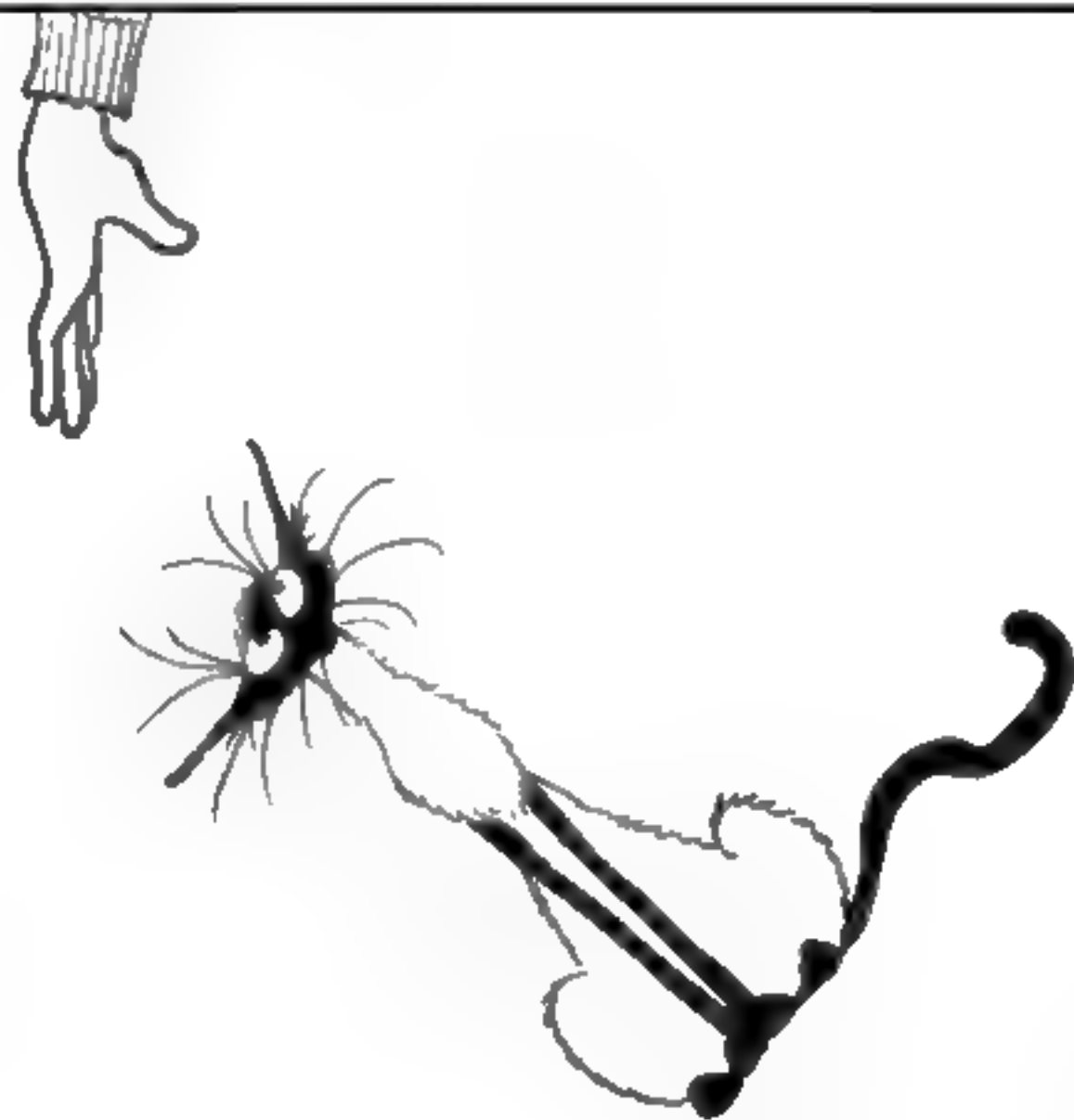
Brooke



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HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 188



TELESCOPIC
CERVICAL
PAT-RECEPTOR
TECHNOLOGY

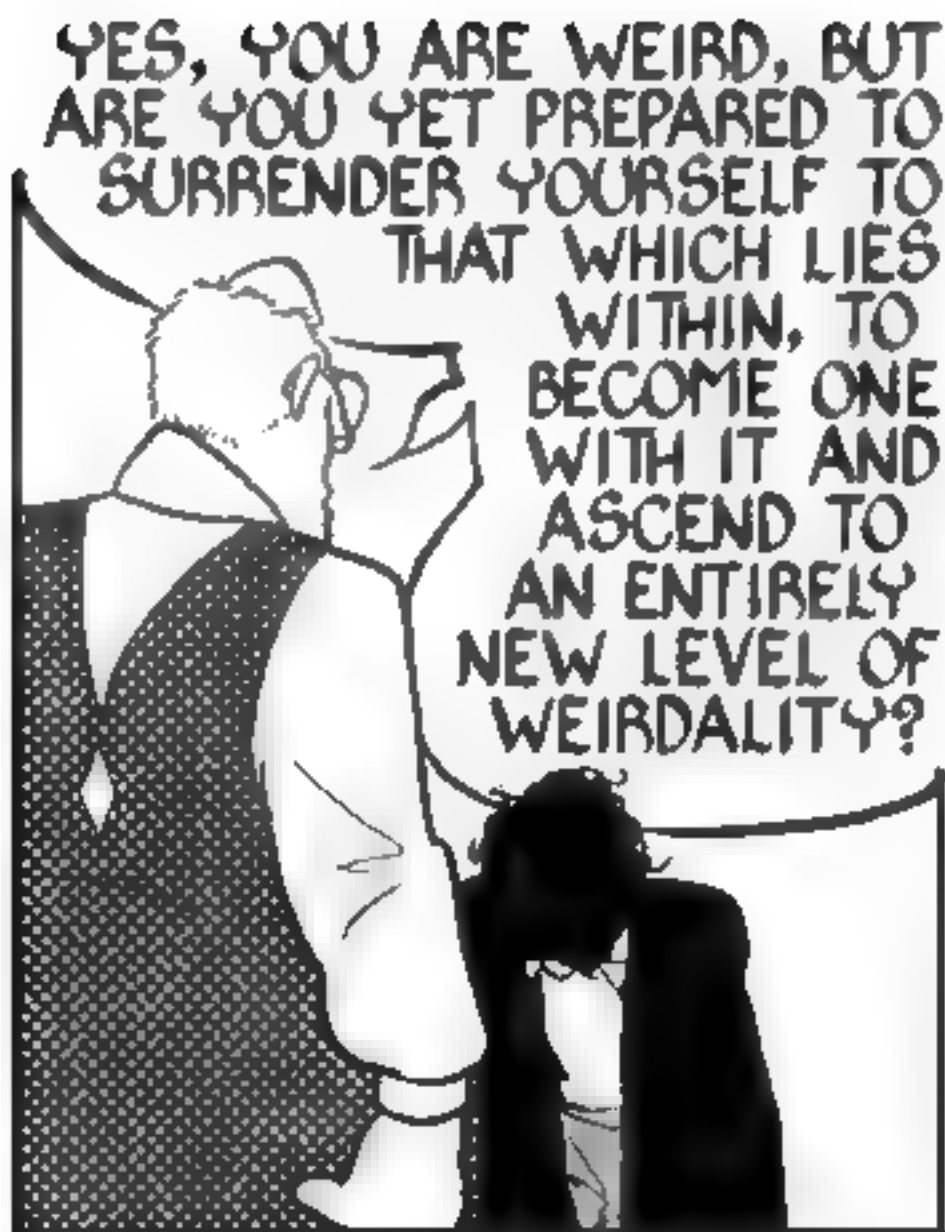


Brooke



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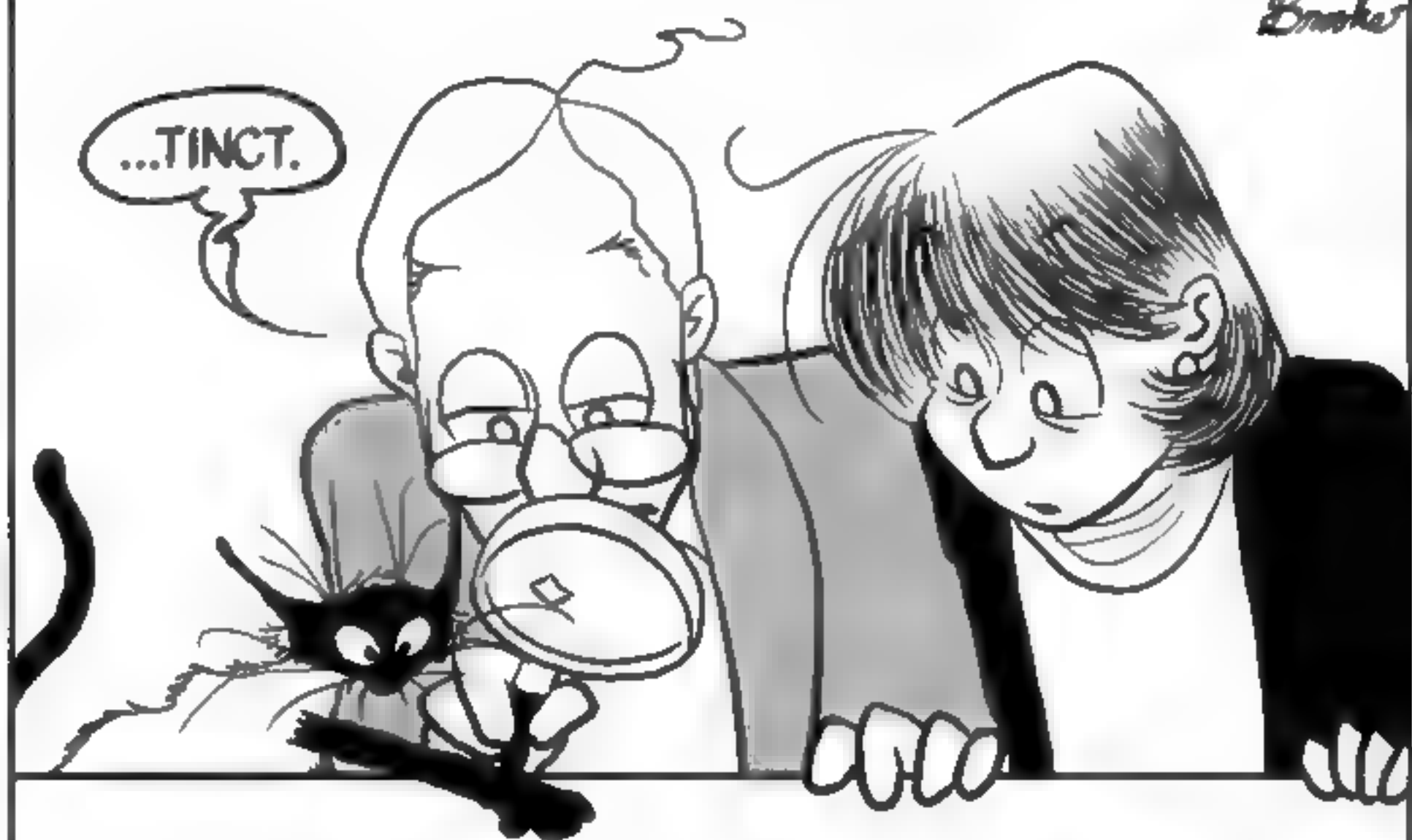




YOU WERE RIGHT, DR. BURBER...
...THIS IS A MOMENTOUS
DISCOVERY...
...ONE OF THE
RAREST
EXAMPLES
OF A SPECIES
OF LADYBUG
HERETOFORE
THOUGHT
TO BE
VIRTUALLY
EX...



...TINCT.



Brooke

HALLMARKS
OF FELINITY
No. 189:
INTELLECTUAL
SUPERIORITY



THERE IS A FINITE
AMOUNT OF TIME
A CREATURE WITH
THE I.Q. OF A PEACH
CAN STARE DEEPLY
INTO YOUR EYES...

Brooke



...BEFORE YOU
ATTAIN THE I.Q.
OF A PEACH
FROM STARING
BACK.

WHY THE SEXES ARE
OPPOSITE, No. 1: IT'S NOT
THAT MEN CAN KILL AN
INTIMATE MOMENT
WITH SURGICALLY
PRECISE
STUPID
COMMENTS...

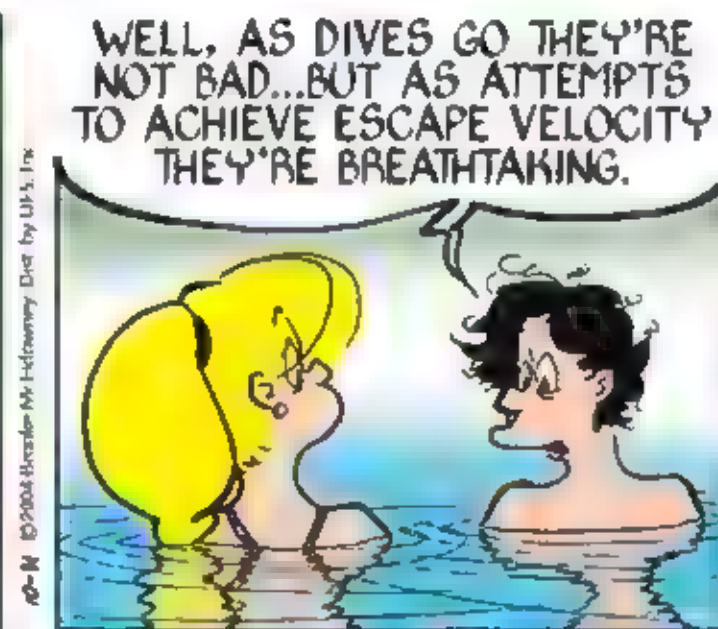
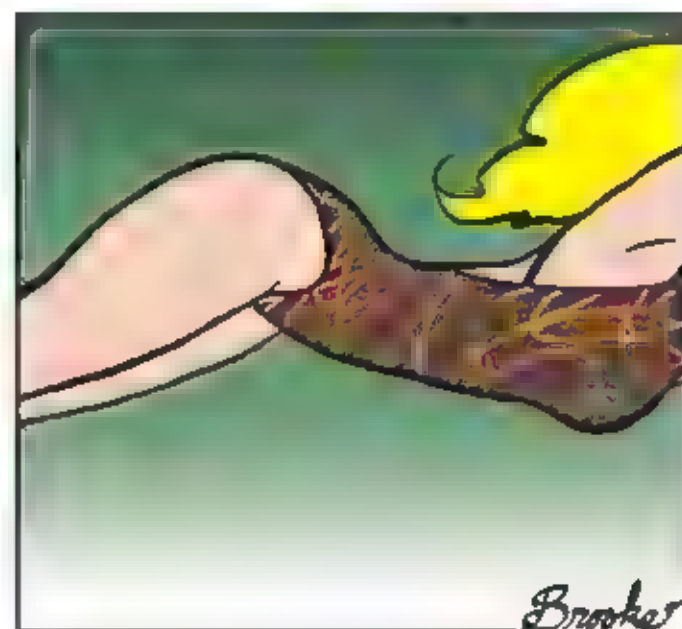
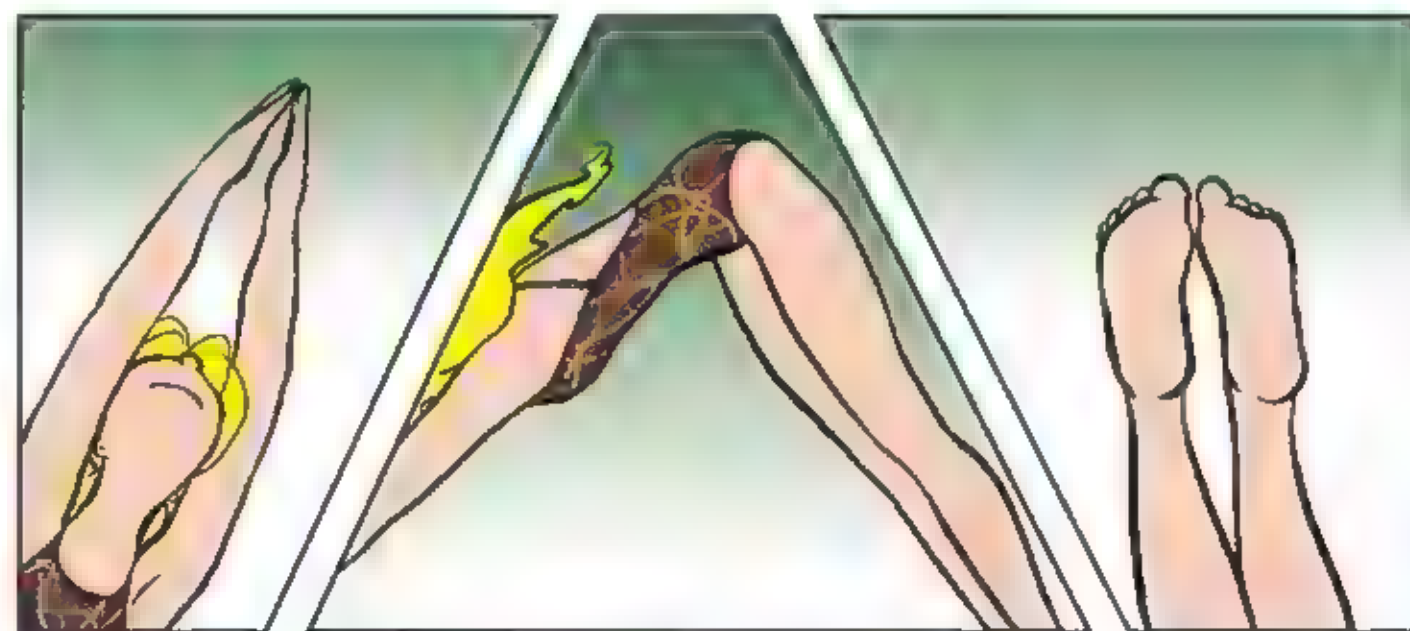
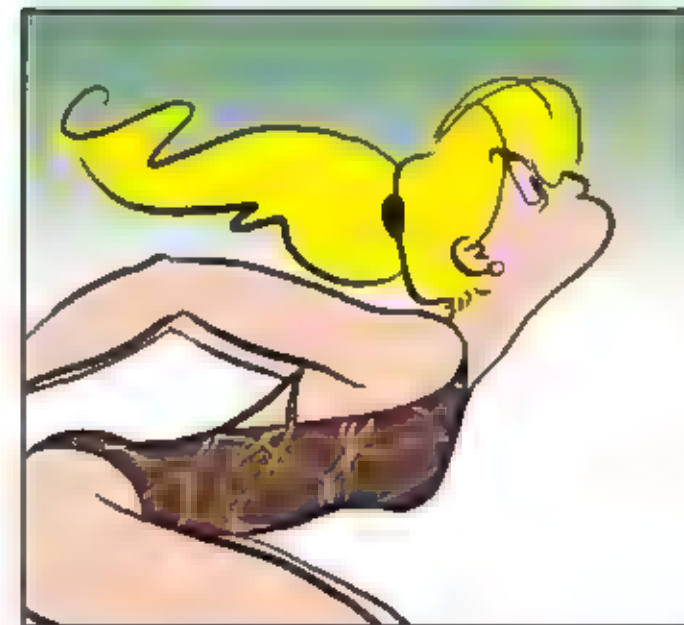
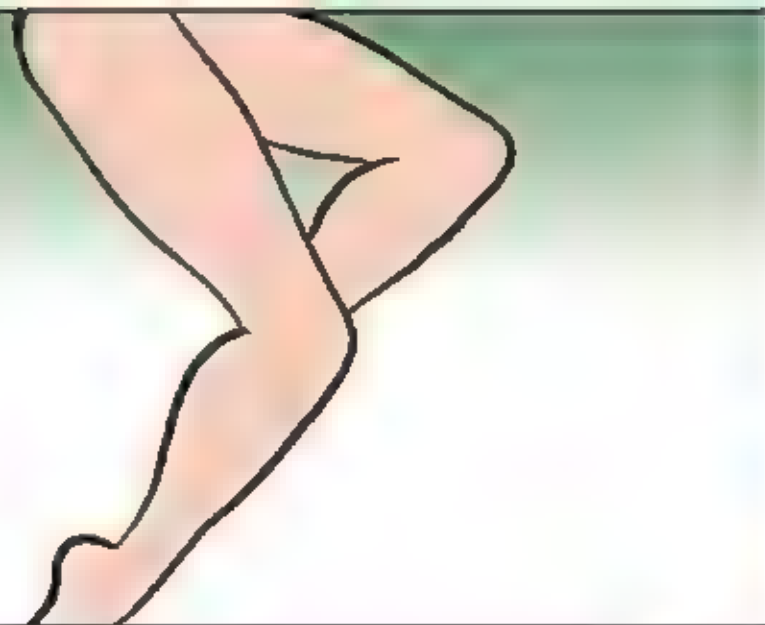


HEY...HAVE YOU
EVER THOUGHT
ABOUT GETTING
ONE OF THOSE
NOSE HAIR
TRIMMERS?

...IT'S THAT THEY NEVER UNDERSTAND
YOUR REACTION, AND SPEND THE NEXT
HOUR BEGGING YOU
TO REPEAT THE
OBSERVATION.



PLEASE,
JUST TELL
ME WHAT
I SAID.



©2004 Hush! Mr. Hush! Diver by U.K. Inc.

Brooker

ONE OF THE THINGS I ADMIRE MOST ABOUT
BALLET IS THE PHYSICAL FOCUS,
THE ZEN-LIKE CALM
A DANCER
EXPERIENCES
BEFORE
GOING
ONSTAGE.



IF AMOS DOESN'T SHOW
UP IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES,
I'LL HUNT HIM DOWN AND
DISEMBOWEL HIM WITH
MY BARE FINGERNAILS.



Brooks



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WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DID YOU DO WITH AMOS?

I GOT A HAIR-CUT AND RENTED THE TAILS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NIGHT FOR YOU...
...A SOLO PERFORMANCE.



HOW COULD I SHOW UP TO PLAY PIANO FOR YOU LOOKING LIKE A DOOFUS?



YET, DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU HAVE MAKEUP ON YOUR LAPEL.

WHERE?



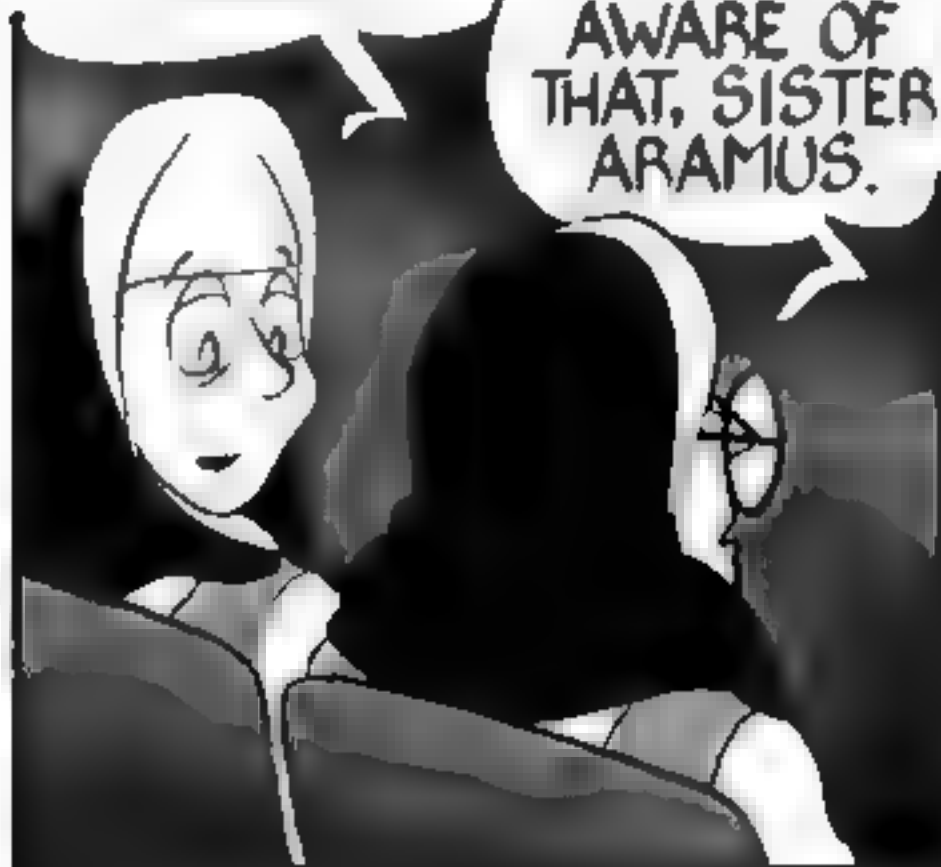
HERE.

Brooks



THE PROGRAM SAYS IT'S
CALLED "MUSE," TO MUSIC
BY PROKOFIEFF...AND EDDA
CHOREOGRAPHED
IT HERSELF.

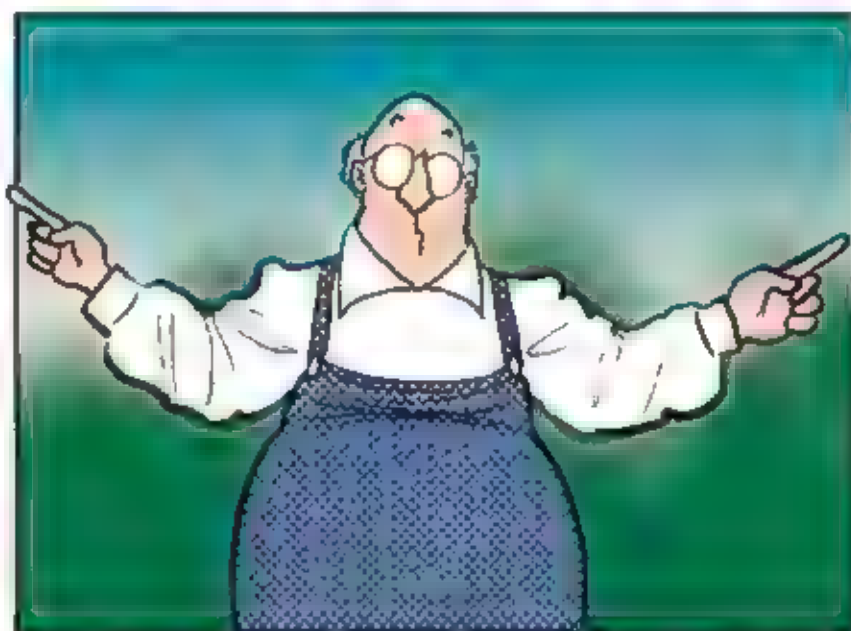
I'M WELL
AWARE OF
THAT, SISTER
ARAMUS.





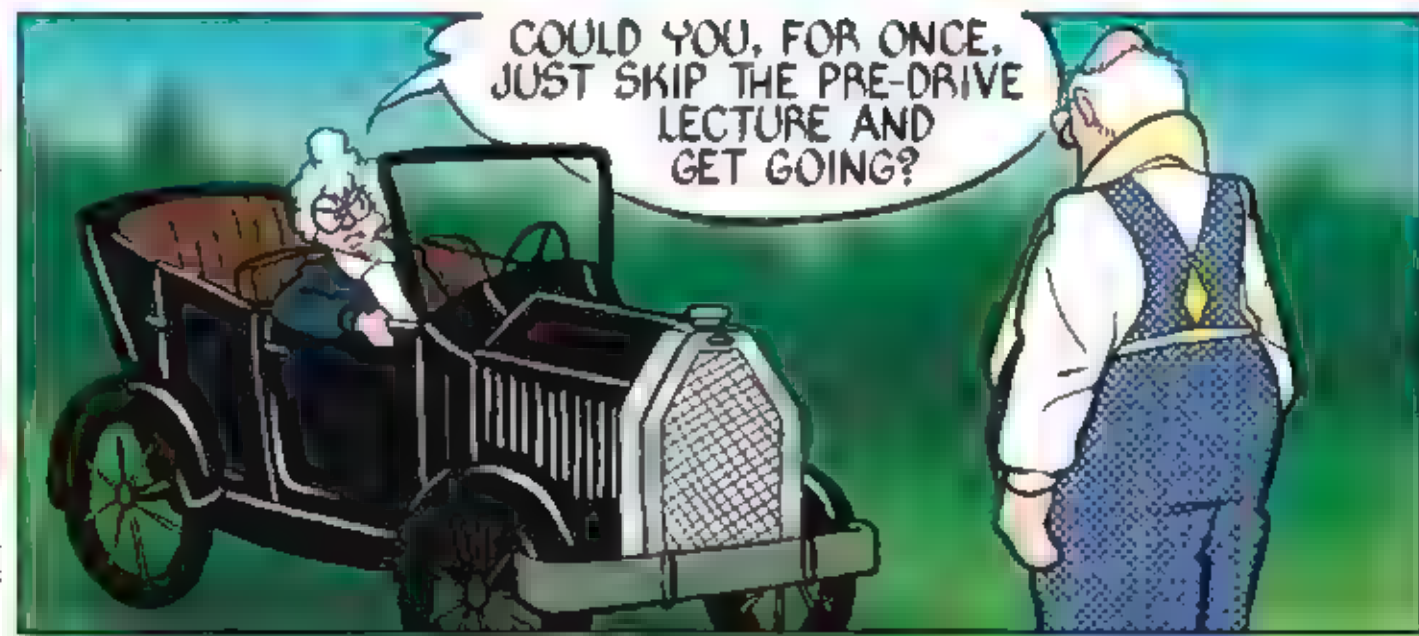


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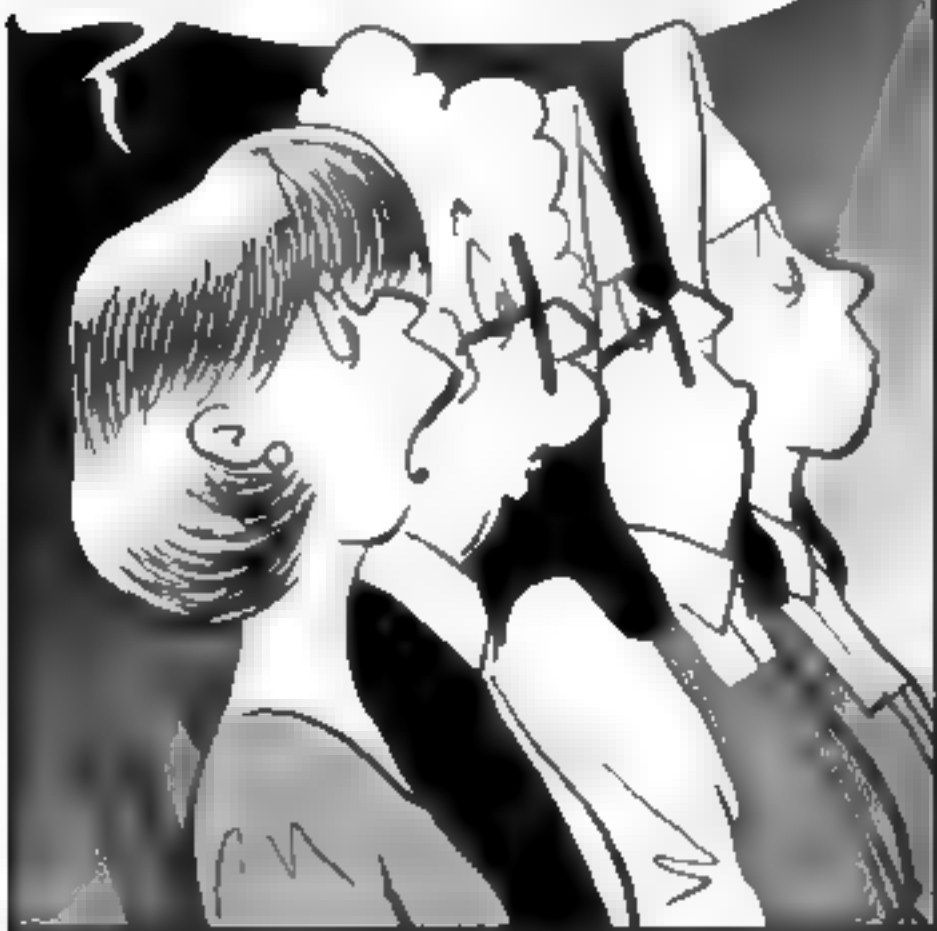


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11-7



LEAVE IT TO EDDA TO
PERFORM A PAS DE DEUX
WITH A STEINWAY GRAND
AS A DANCE PARTNER.



Brooks



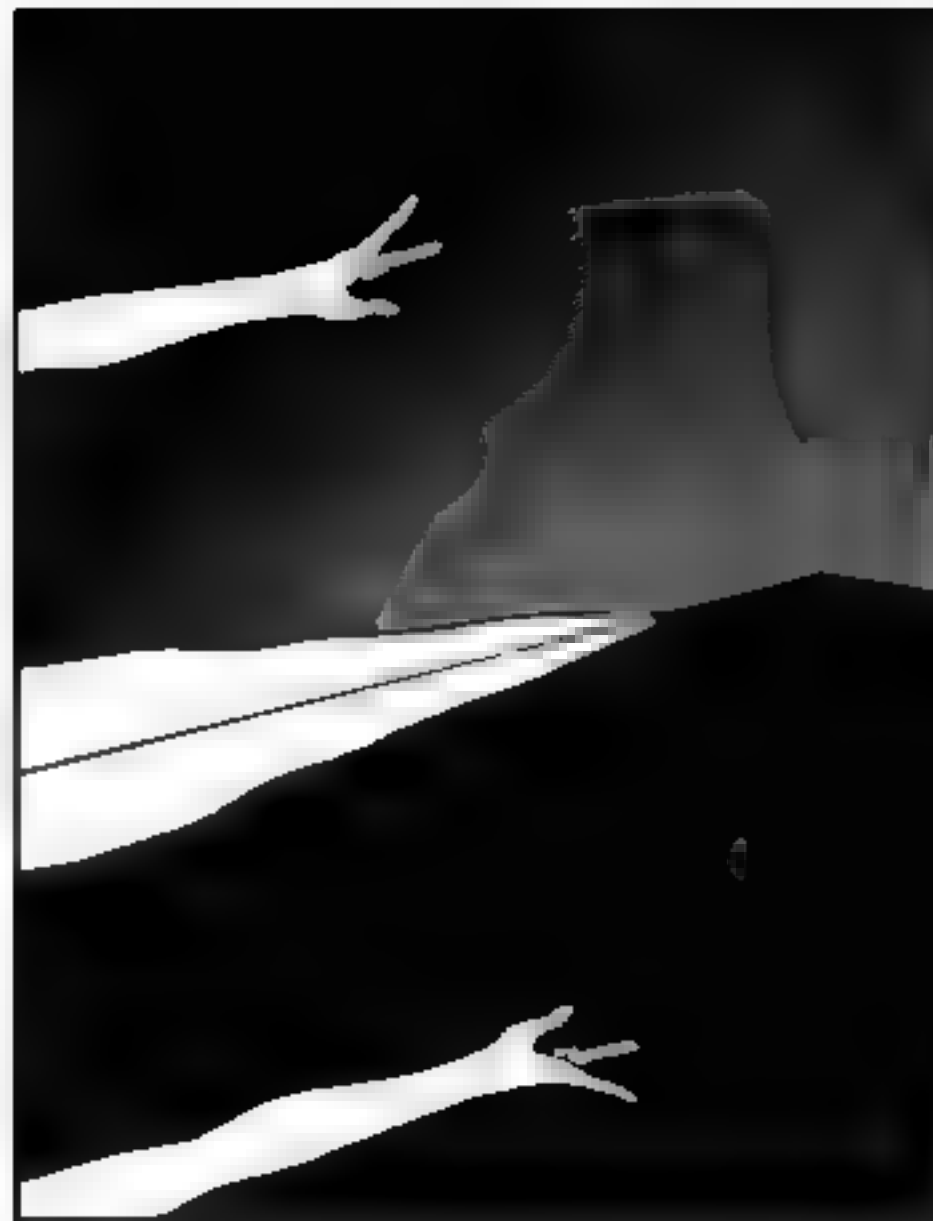
YOU THINK THAT'S BIG...DID
I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH
PATTON'S
EIGHTH
ARMY?

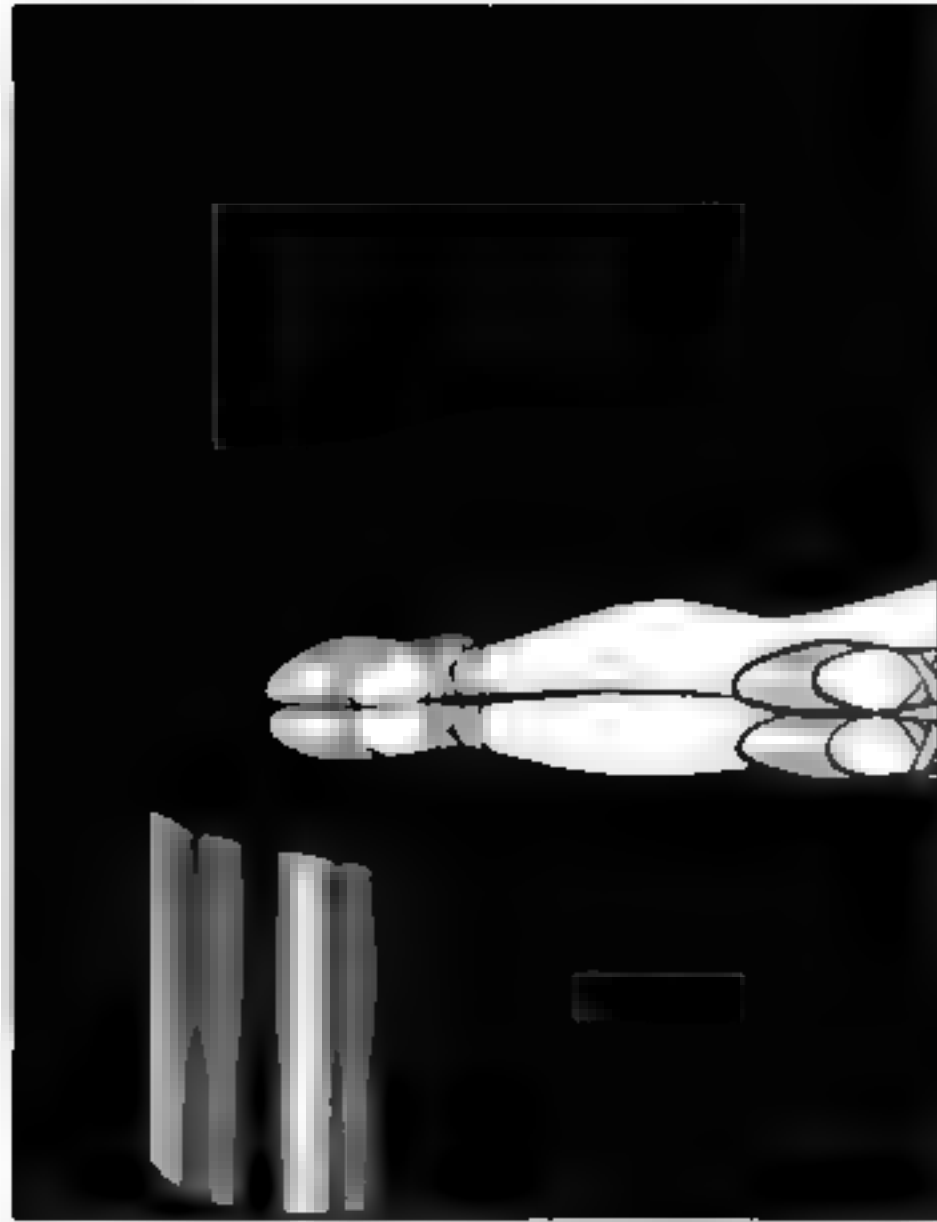
YOU
NEVER LOSE
AN
OPPORTUNITY.



WHO IS THAT MAN MAKING
ALL THE NOTES, AND WHY
DID YOU SEND FOR HIM?

TO SEE
EDDA DANCE.
NOW HUSH.





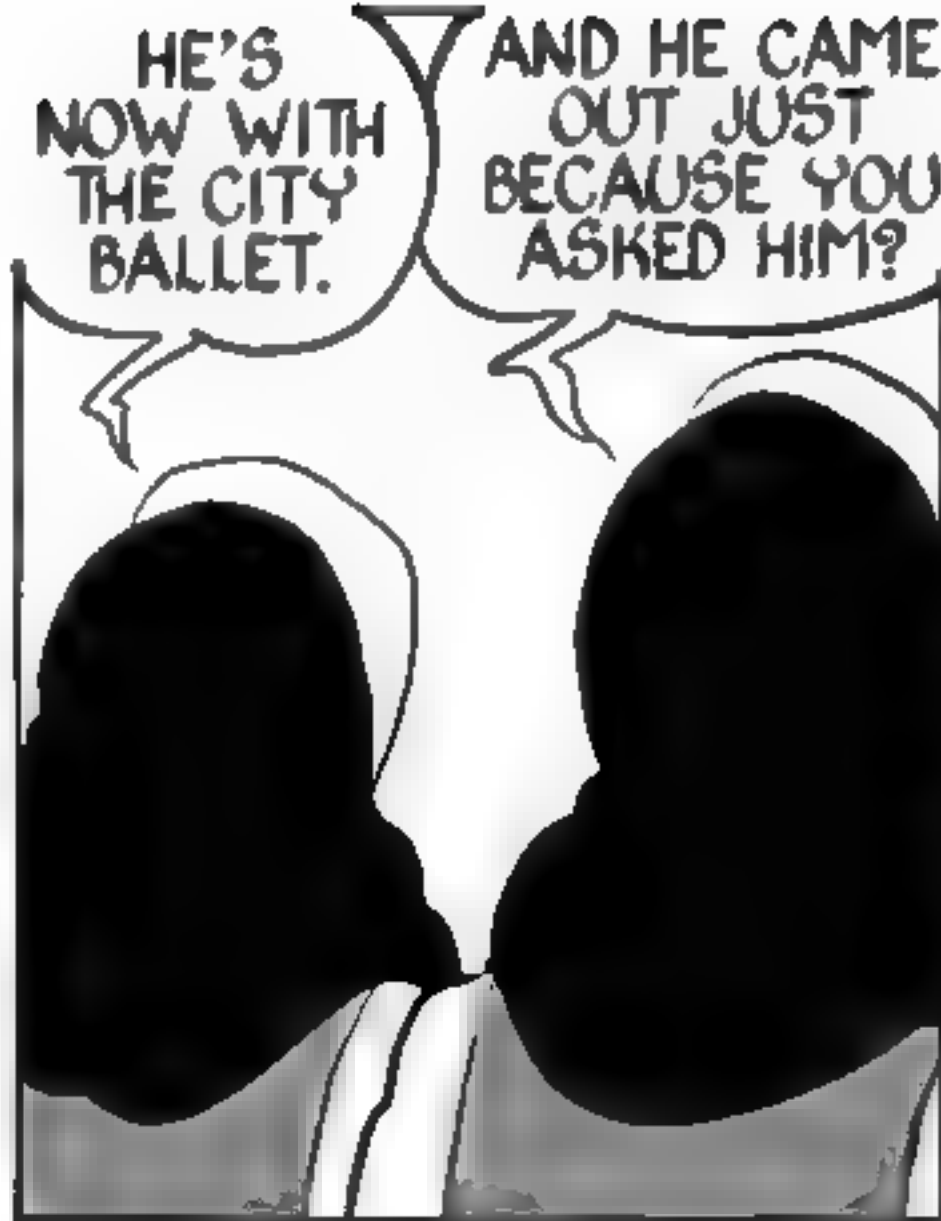
SO WHO IS THAT MAN YOU
INVITED TO SEE
EDDA DANCE?

AN OLD
STUDENT
OF MINE.



HE'S
NOW WITH
THE CITY
BALLET.

AND HE CAME
OUT JUST
BECAUSE YOU
ASKED HIM?



HE WAS ALWAYS PETRIFIED
BY ME...AS SOON AS HE
HEARD MY VOICE ON THE
PHONE HE CAPITULATED.



YOU'RE LIKE A FAIRY
GODMOTHER WITH TERROR
IN HER WAND.

YOU'VE
SUCH A
WAY WITH
WORDS.

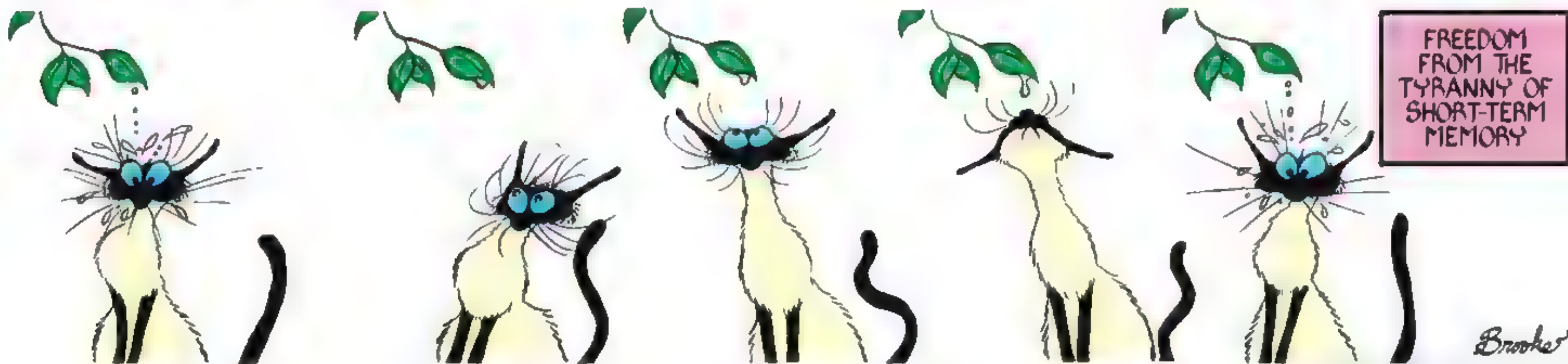
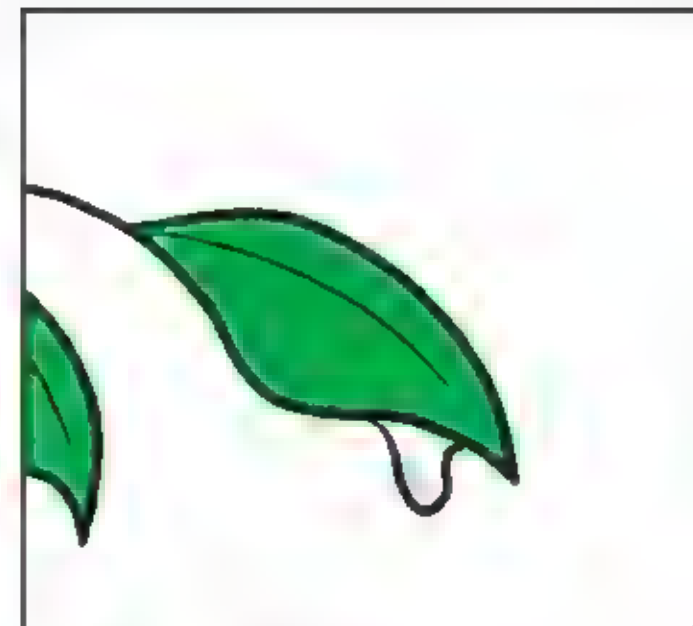




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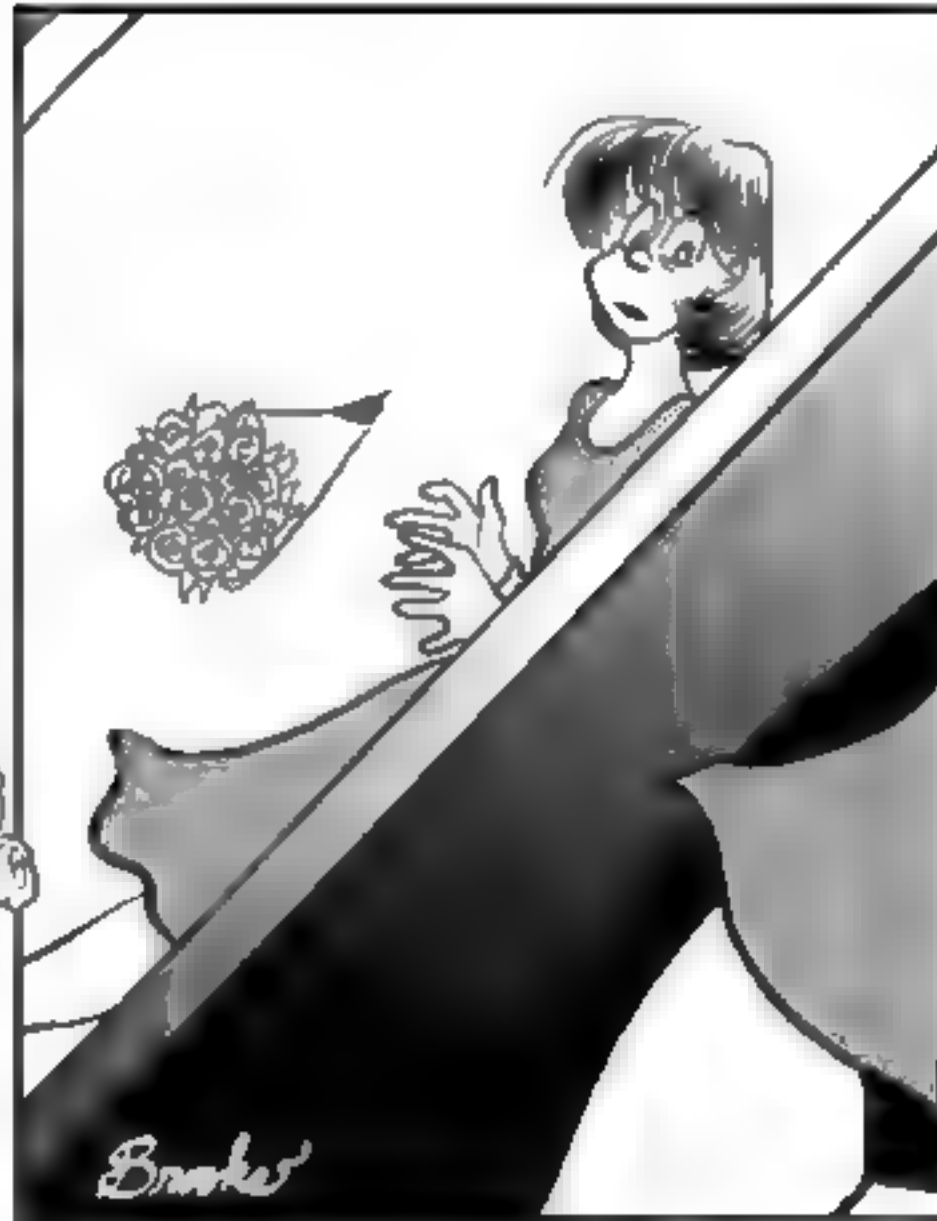


FREEDOM
FROM THE
TYRANNY OF
SHORT-TERM
MEMORY

Brooke

I THOUGHT
WE WERE
HEADING
HOME.

I FORGOT TO
GIVE EDDA HER
FLOWERS.



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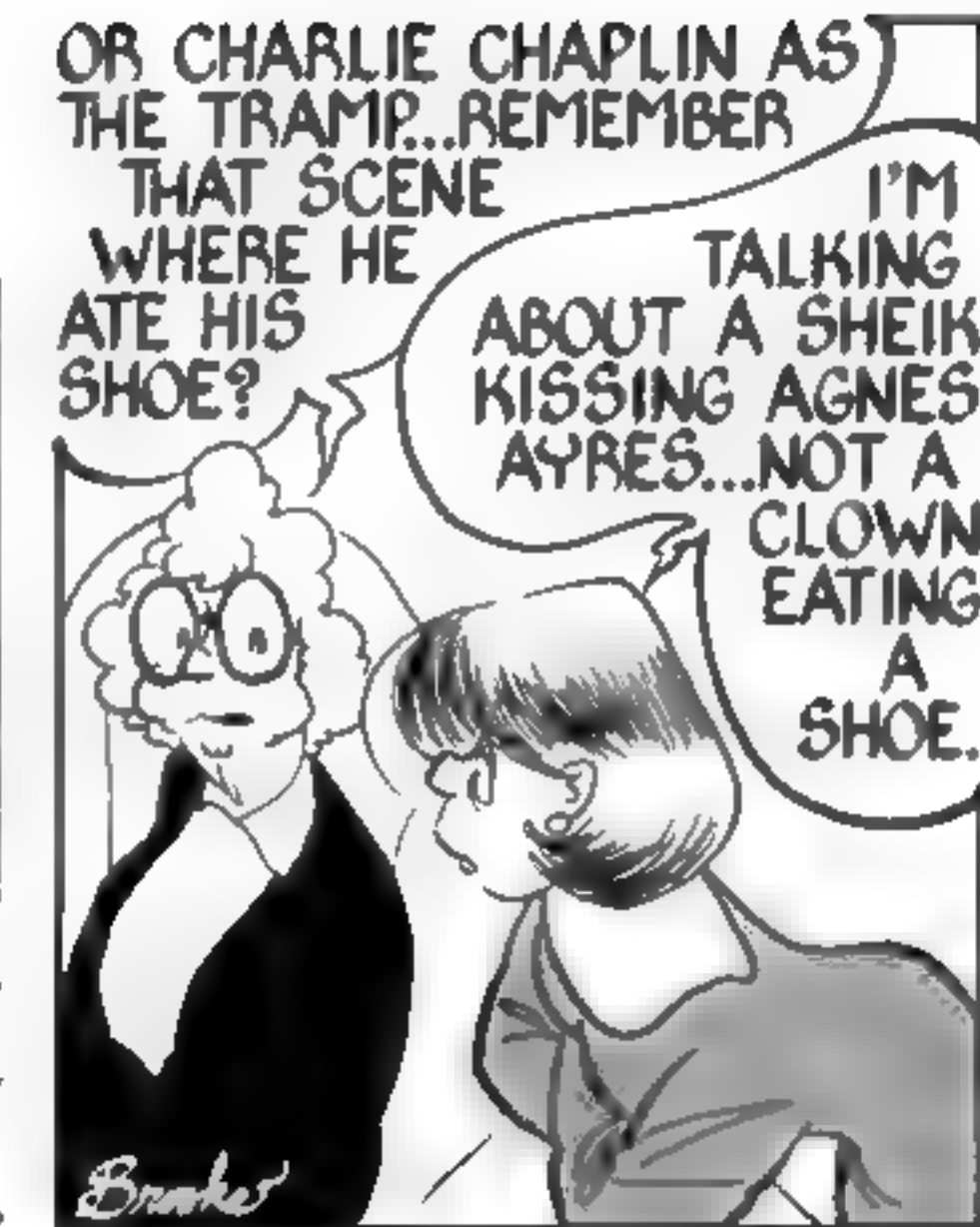
WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE
THE BOUQUET?

HER HANDS
WERE A LITTLE
FULL.





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YOU MAKE TOO MUCH OUT OF A LITTLE KISS. AMOS AND EDDA WERE PROBABLY JUST CONGRATULATING EACH OTHER.



Brooke



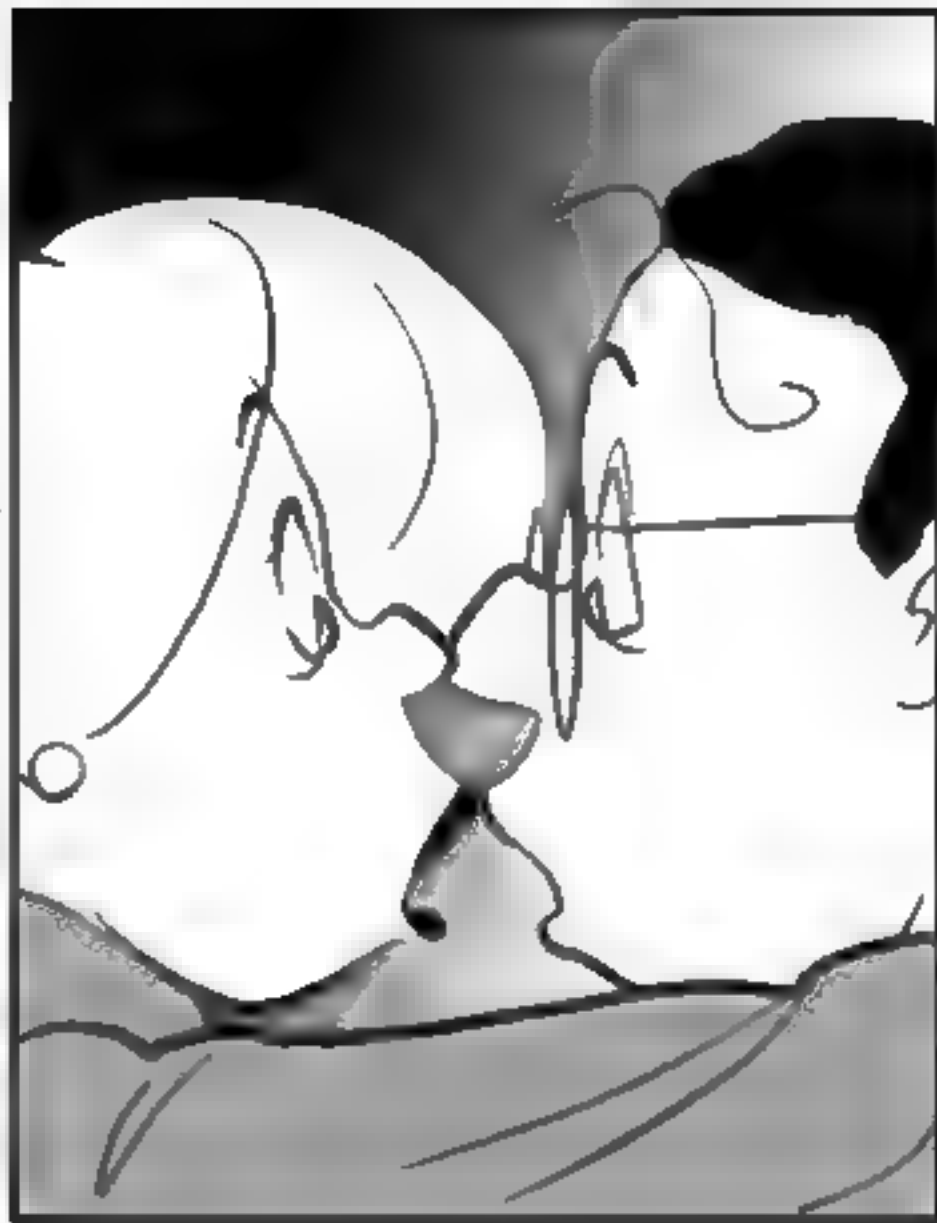
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THE LAST TIME I CONGRATULATED SOMEONE THAT WAY, I GAVE BIRTH WITHIN THE YEAR.

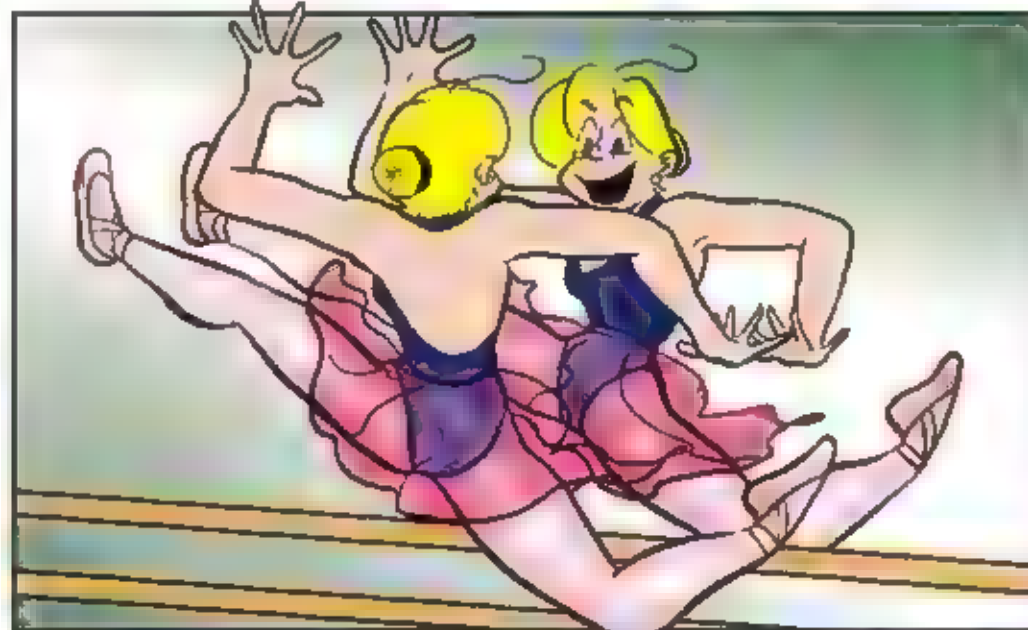
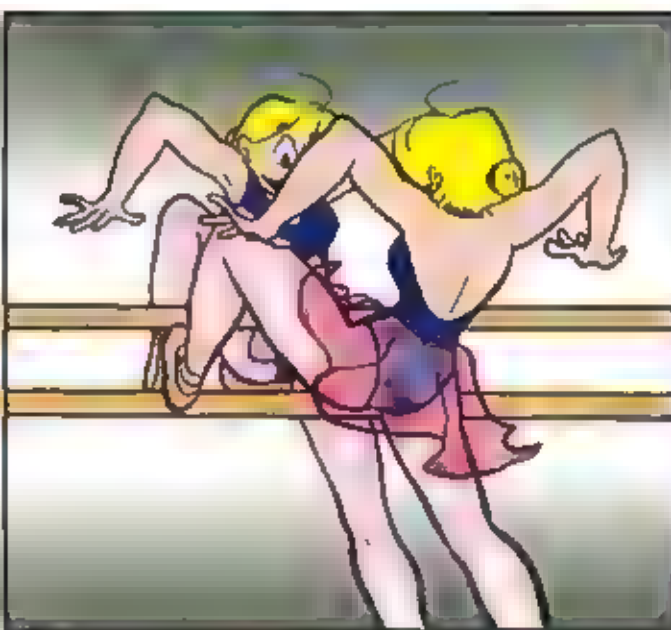
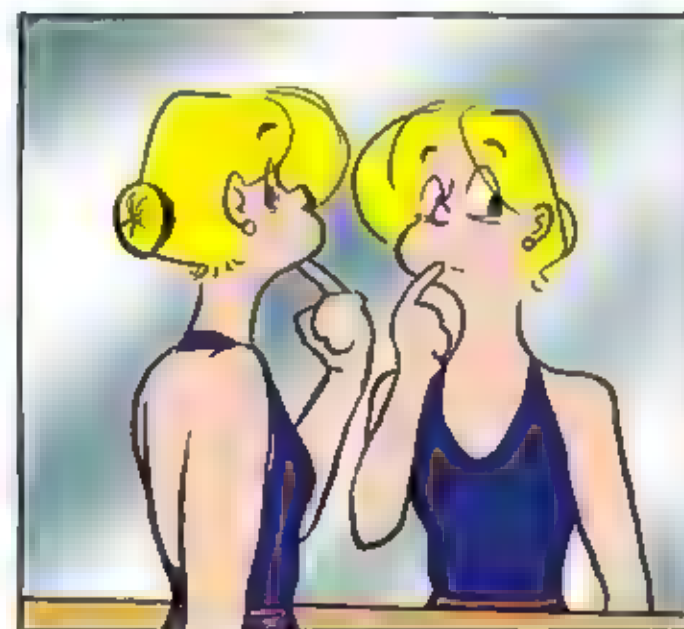
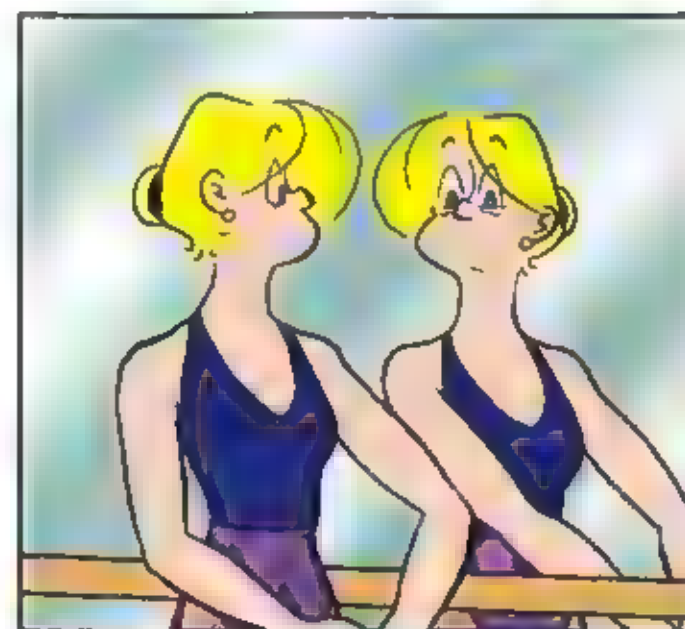
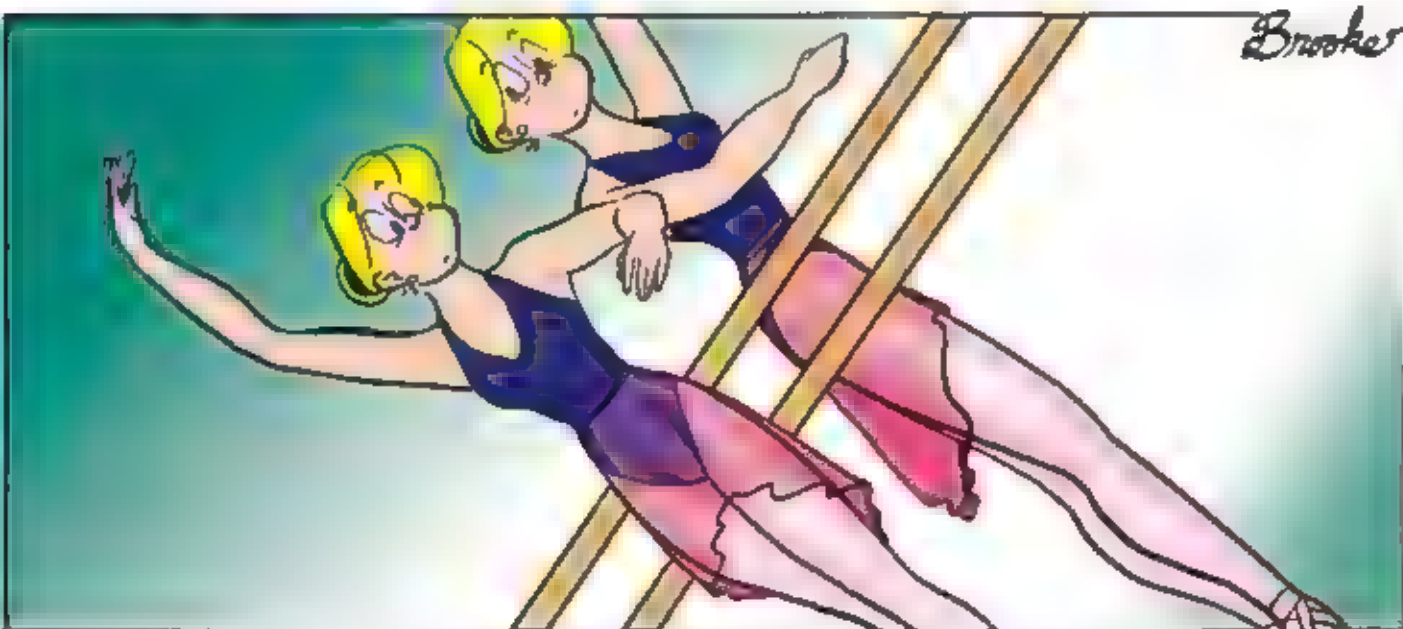
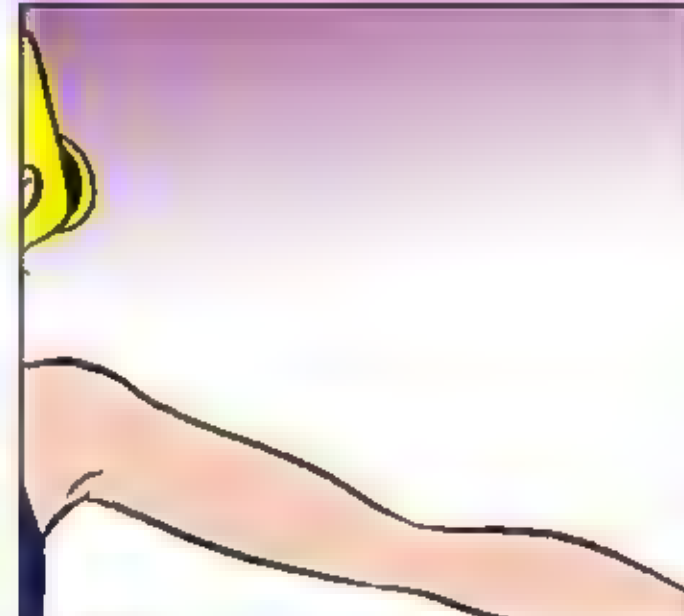
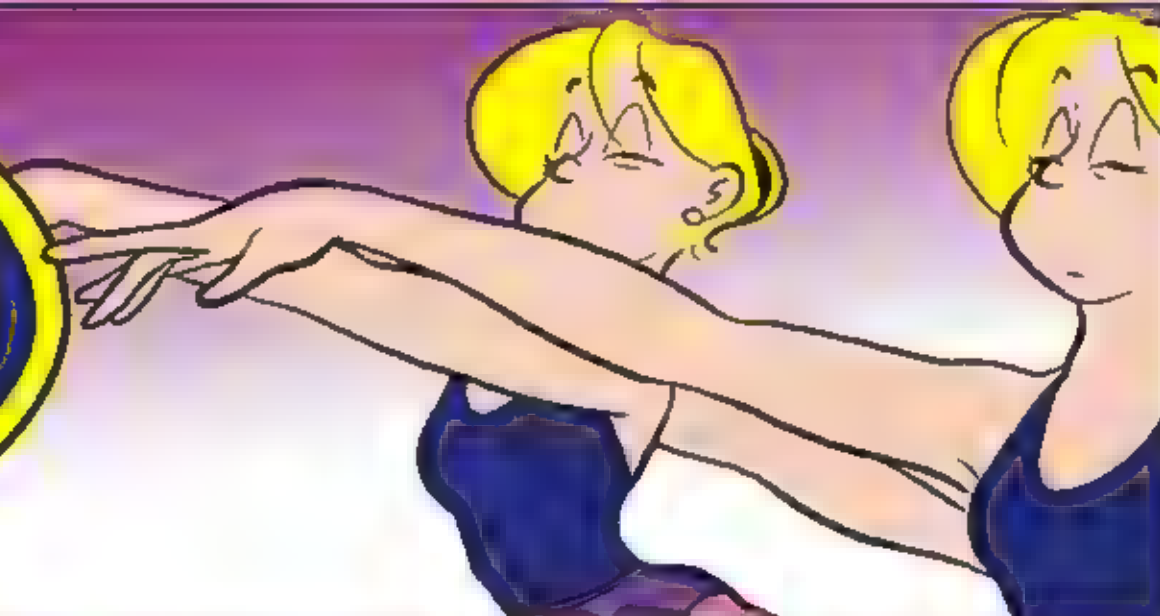




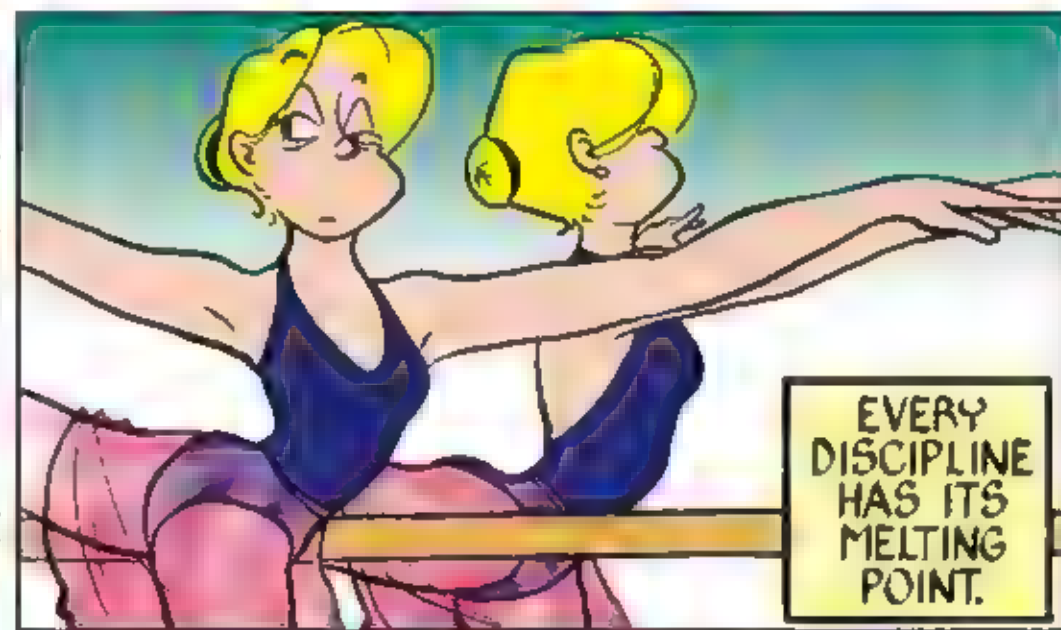
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EVERY
DISCIPLINE
HAS ITS
MELTING
POINT.

WHAT MUST
I HAVE BEEN
THINKING?



HOW COULD I? I HAD
TO HAVE BEEN OUT OF
MY MIND.



DO YOU WANT
TO TALK ABOUT
IT?



ABSOLUTELY
NOT!



WAS I
CRAZY?



WHAT IS IT
GOING TO BE
LIKE WHEN
SHE WANTS
TO TALK?

HONEY, EVER
SINCE YOU
WERE OUT SO
LATE WITH
AMOS,
YOU'VE
BEEN...



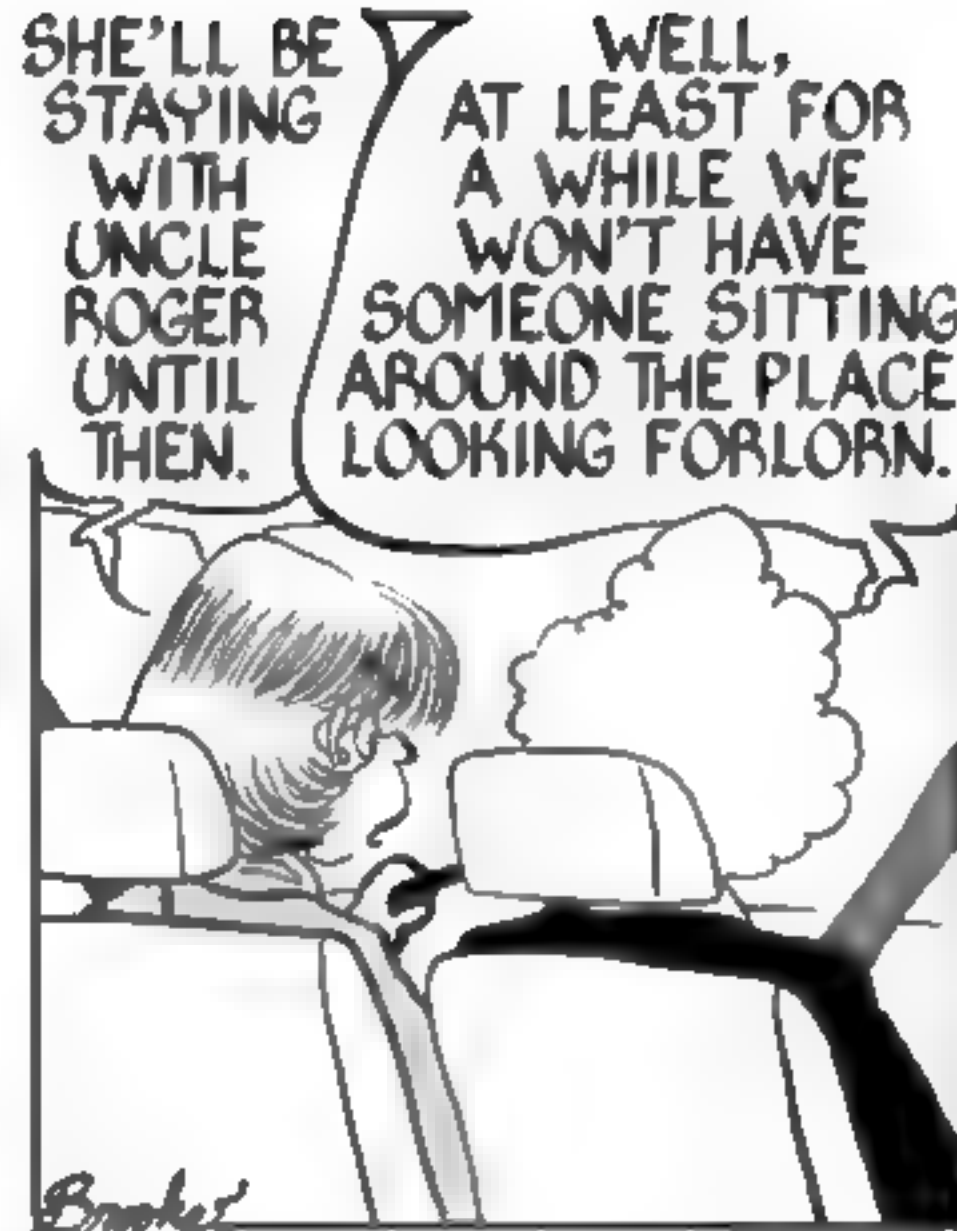
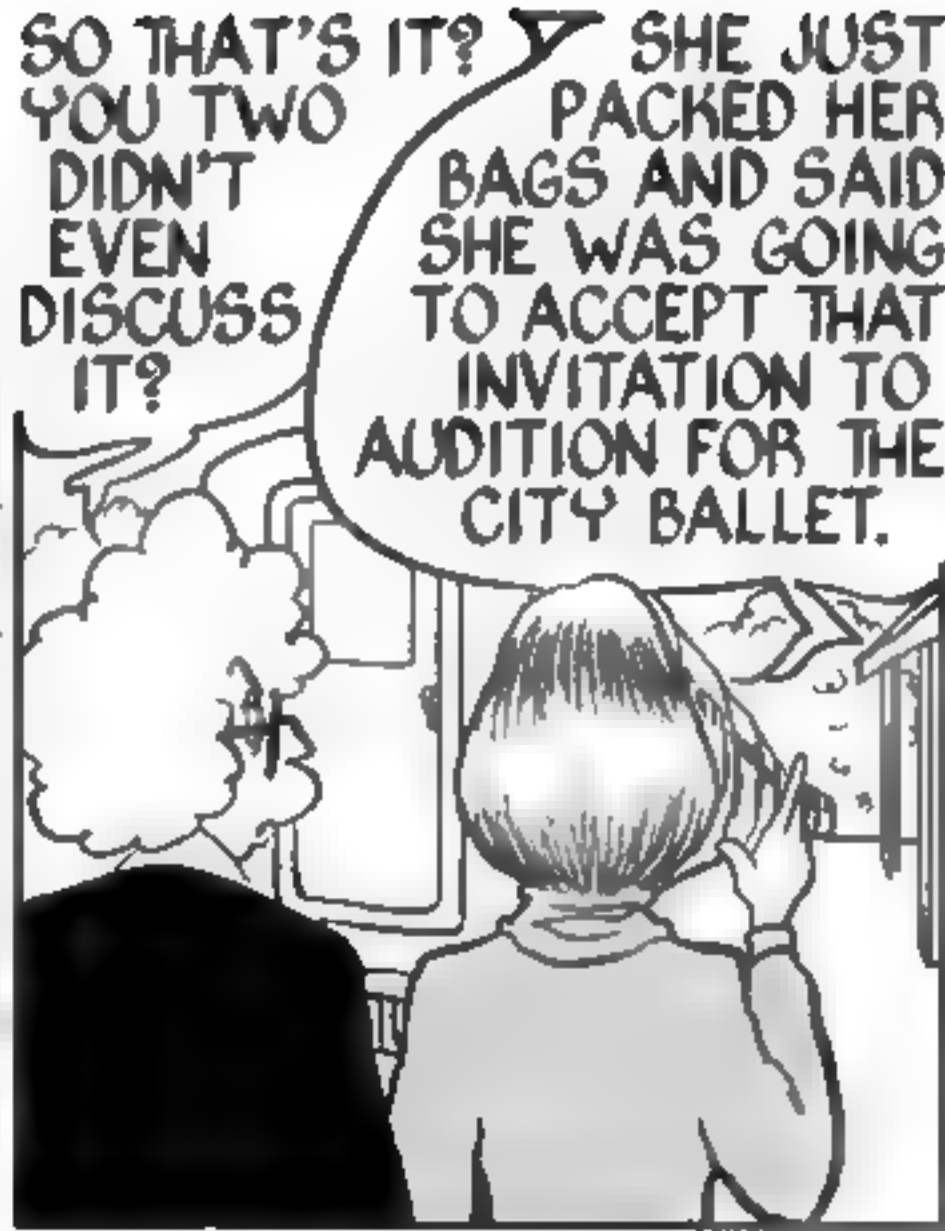
Broker

ALL I WANTED TO SAY IS
...IF YOU NEED TO...YOU
KNOW...TALK...I'M...
WELL, I'M...
YOU KNOW...





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BUT WHY
DID EDDA
GO TO
THE CITY?
WHAT'S
SHE
DOING?

AMOS, IF SHE
DIDN'T CHOOSE
TO TELL YOU,
IT ISN'T MY
BUSINESS TO
INTERFERE.



BUT AFTER WHAT WE FELT
THE OTHER NIGHT...WHAT
WE SAID...AND
DID...



NOW AMOS, I FEEL THAT
WHAT PASSED BETWEEN
YOU AND EDDA IS PRIVATE
AND NONE OF MY AFFAIR.



I'D FIND THAT A LITTLE
MORE CONVINCING IF YOU
WEREN'T COLLAPSING MY
TRACHEA WITH
YOUR THUMB.



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Brooke

EDDA, YOU SHOULD NEVER
HAVE GONE TO THE CITY
WITHOUT LETTING
AMOS KNOW.

DID
YOU
TELL HIM
ABOUT MY
AUDITION?



NO...THAT'S FOR YOU TO
DO, DON'T YOU THINK?...
...ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT
YOU TWO DID THE OTHER
EVENING?



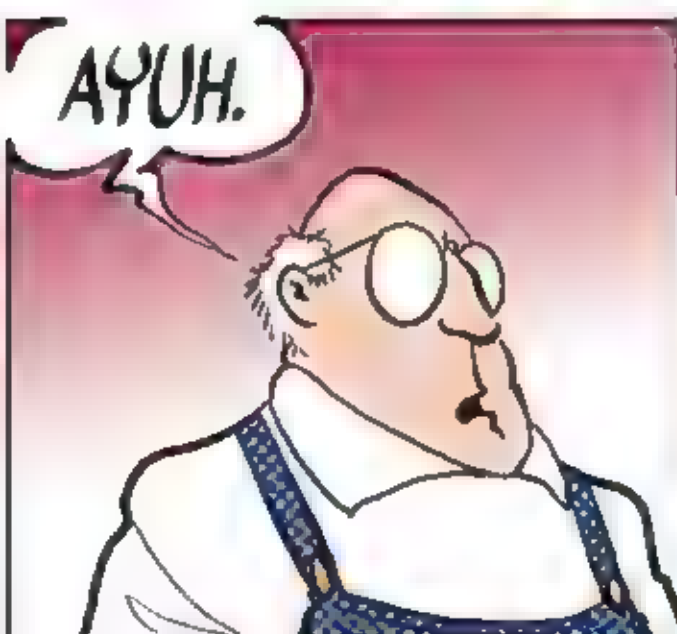
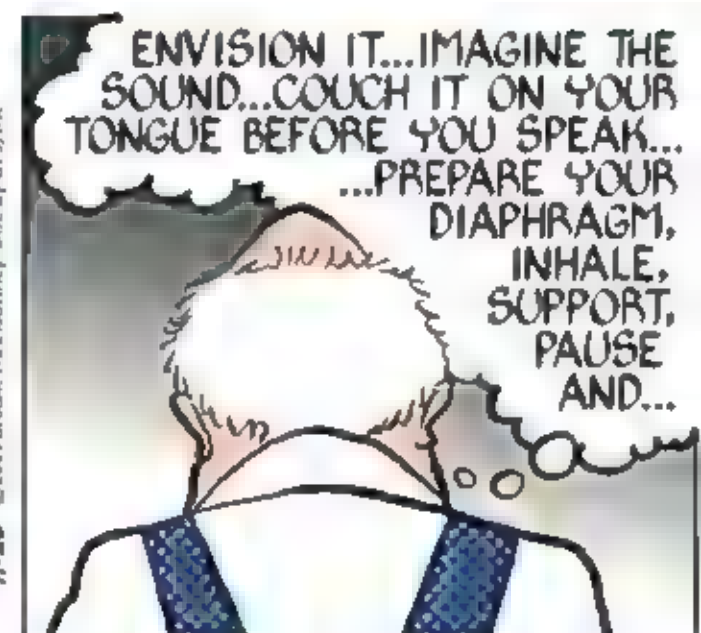
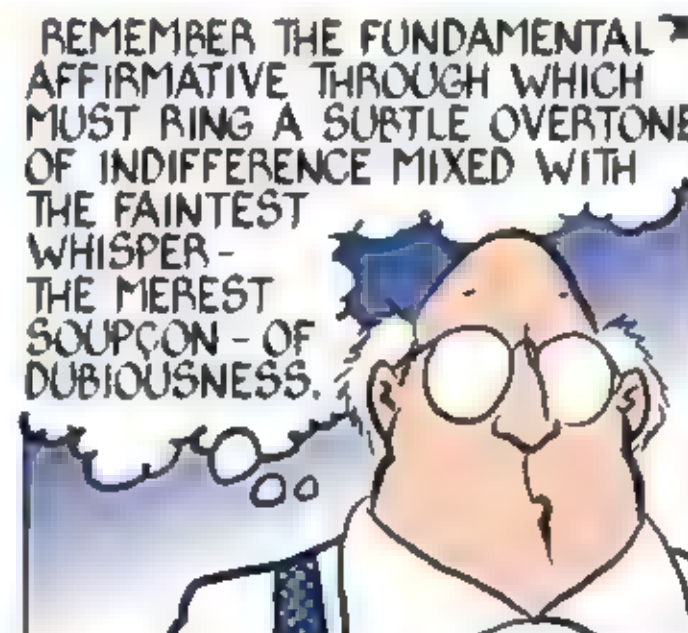
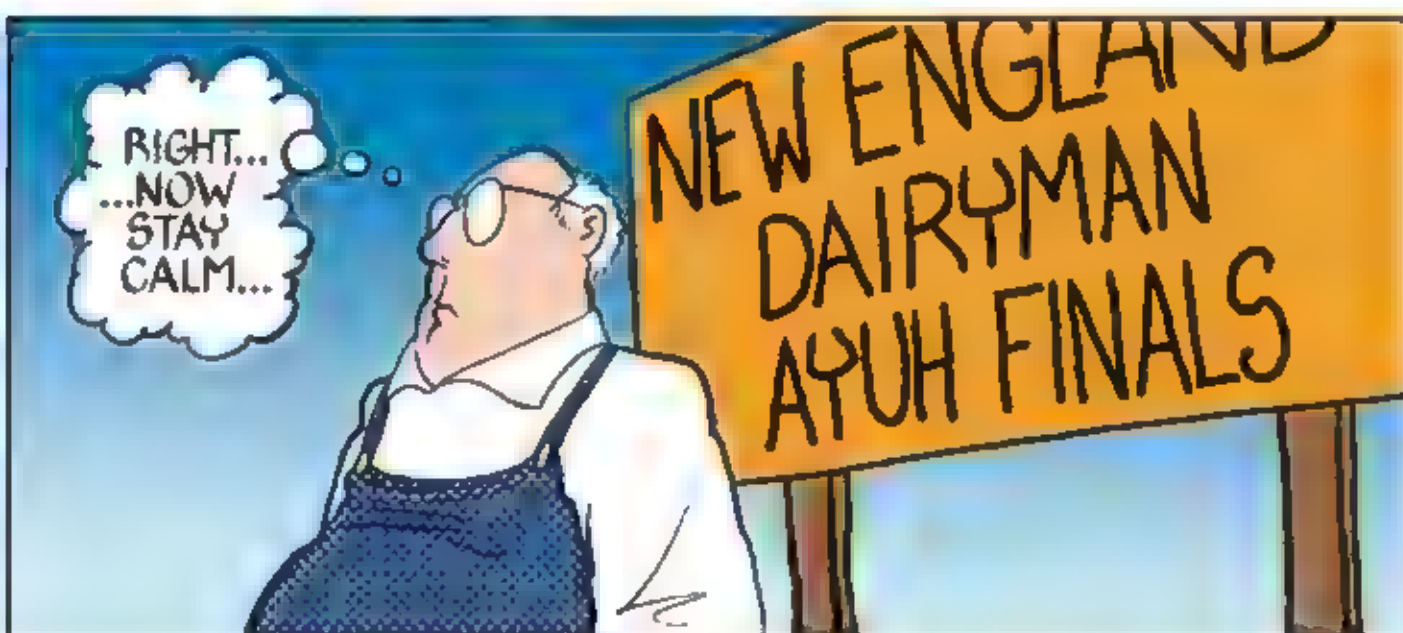
HOW MUCH DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
THAT?

TELL
ME
WHAT
YOU DID,
AND I'LL
TELL YOU
HOW MUCH
I KNOW.



Oooo...
SMOOTH.





I THOUGHT BY NOW EDDA
WOULD HAVE COME TO ME
AND OPENED UP ABOUT HER
...WELL, YOU KNOW
...ENCOUNTER
WITH AMOS.



A GIRL
SHOULD
FEEL
COMPLETELY
AT EASE TO
TALK TO HER
MOM ABOUT
HER DEALINGS
WITH BOYS.



WHICH REMINDS ME, WOULD
YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT
THAT...WELL, YOU KNOW...
...ENCOUNTER YOU HAD
WITH YOUR HIGH
SCHOOL LAB
PARTNER IN
UNCLE FRED'S
BUICK 31
YEARS
AGO?



I DON'T
REMEMBER ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

TENACIOUS,
THIS CASE OF
AMNESIA.



Just by LFS, Inc.

Brooks

I DON'T
KNOW WHY
YOU WORRY
ABOUT EDDA...
THERE'S NO
CALL FOR
CON-
CERN.

IT AMAZES
ME TO HEAR
YOU, OF ALL
PEOPLE,
SAY
THAT.



WHY SHOULDN'T I?...
SHE'S SMART, RESILIENT,
AWARE AND POSSESSED OF
A DEEP MORAL CHARACTER,
ALL OF WHICH MORE THAN
COMPENSATES FOR ANY
MISTAKES SHE MIGHT MAKE
ALONG THE WAY.



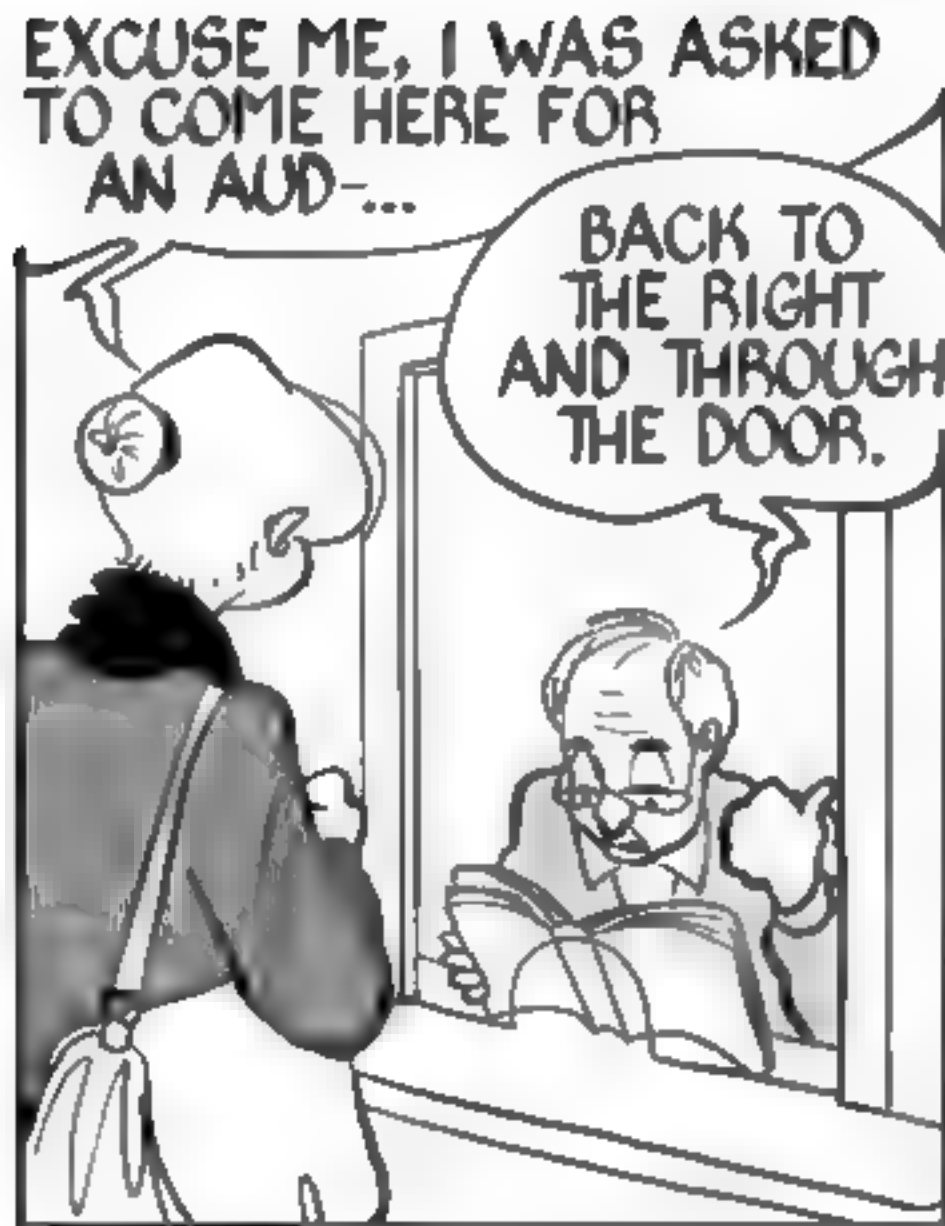
HAVE YOU EVER
THOUGHT TO TELL HER
YOU FEEL THIS WAY?

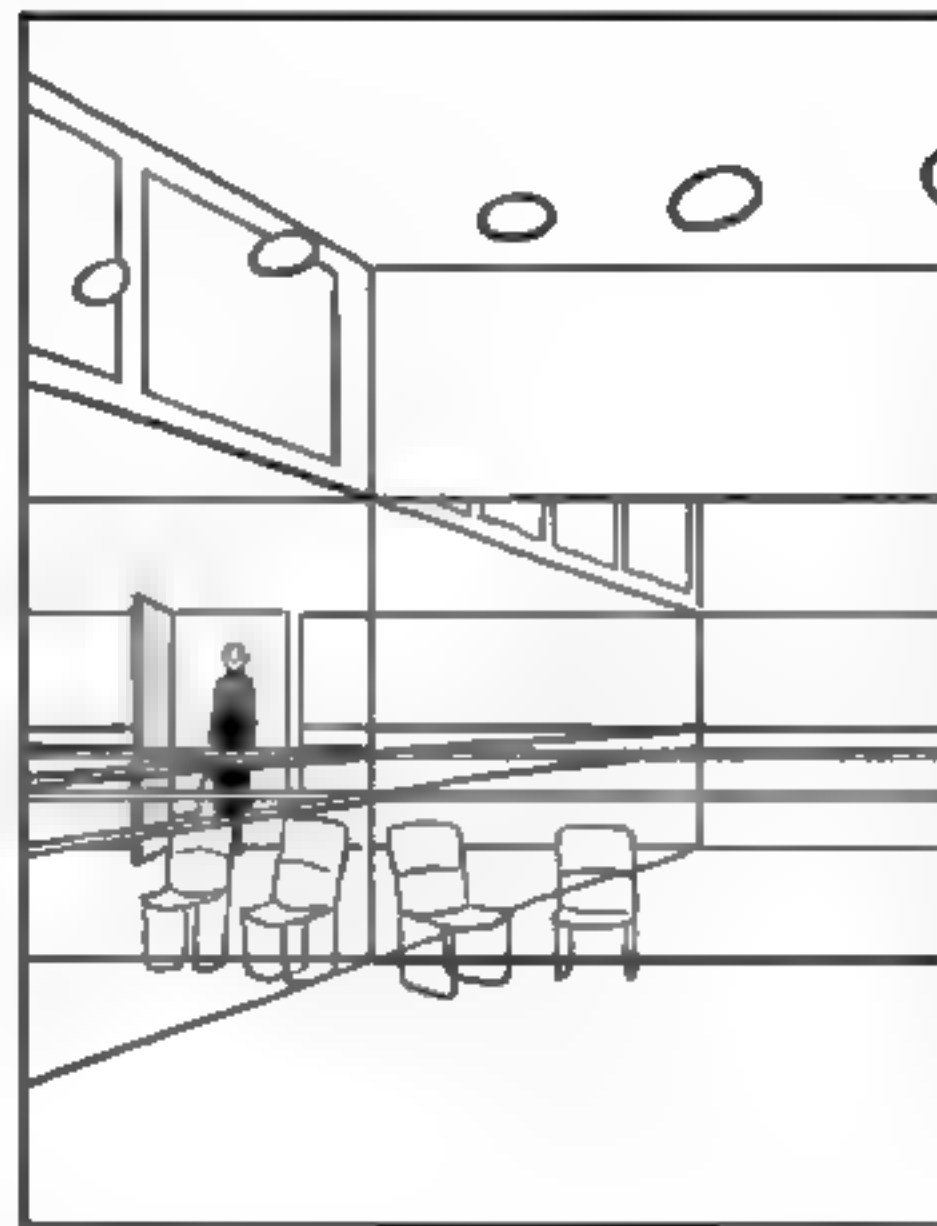
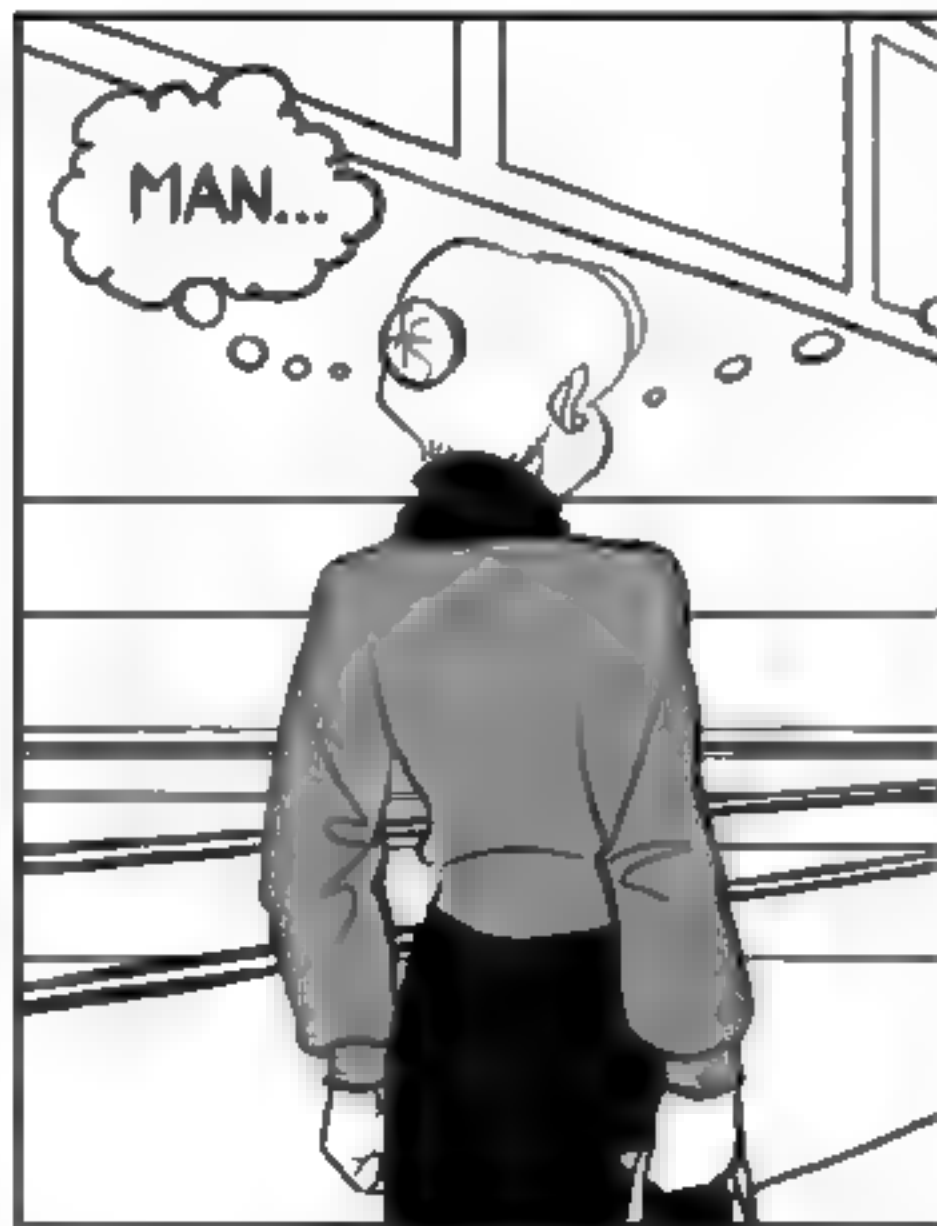


WHAT?!
AND GET
HER
PLEASED
WITH
HERSELF?!

AH, YES...THAT
SLIPPERY SLOPE
OF SELF-ESTEEM.



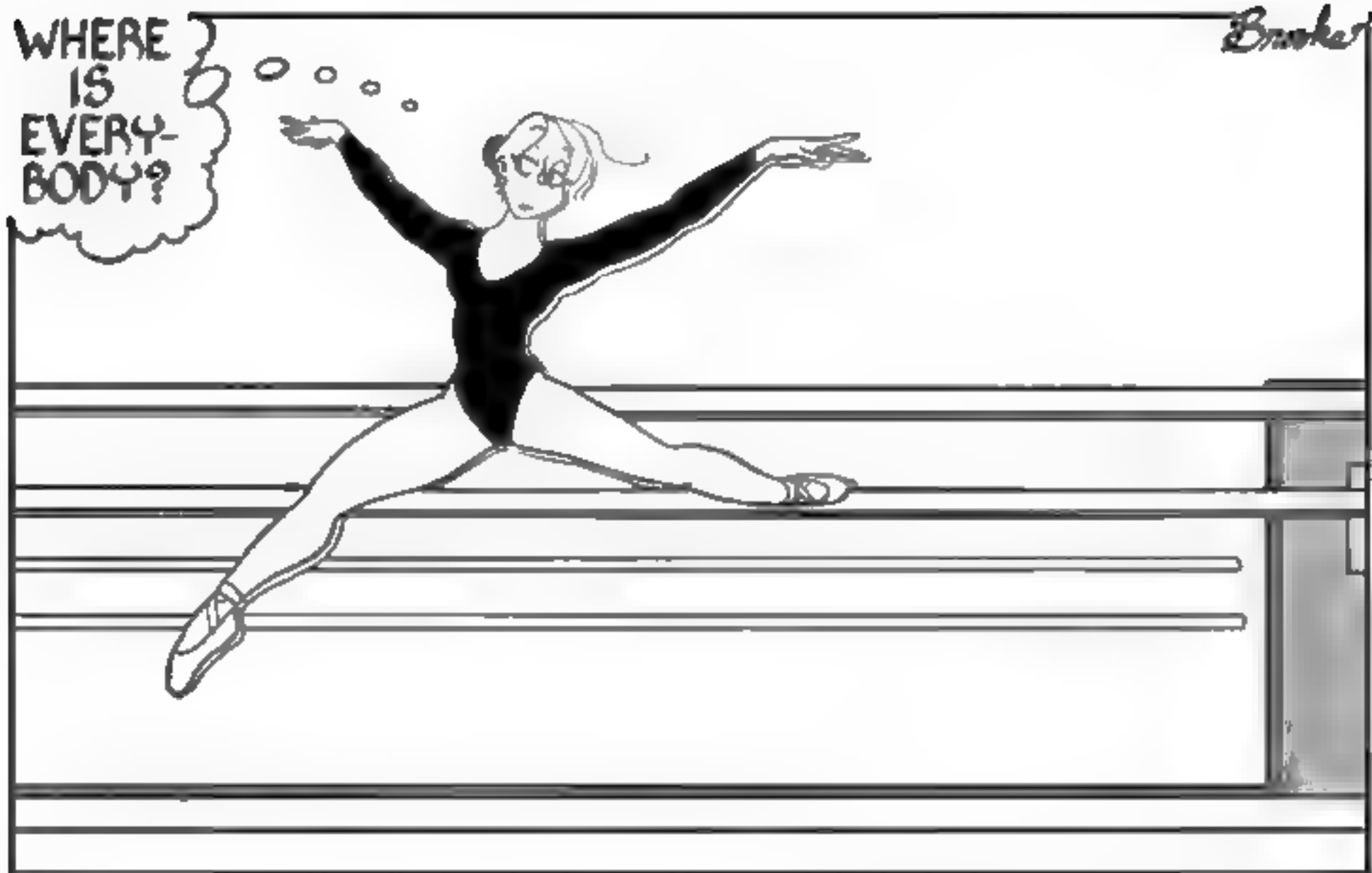


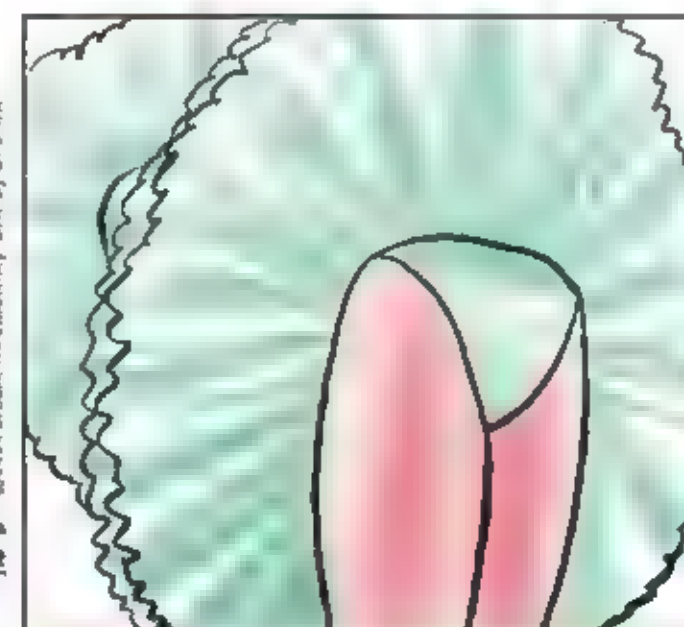
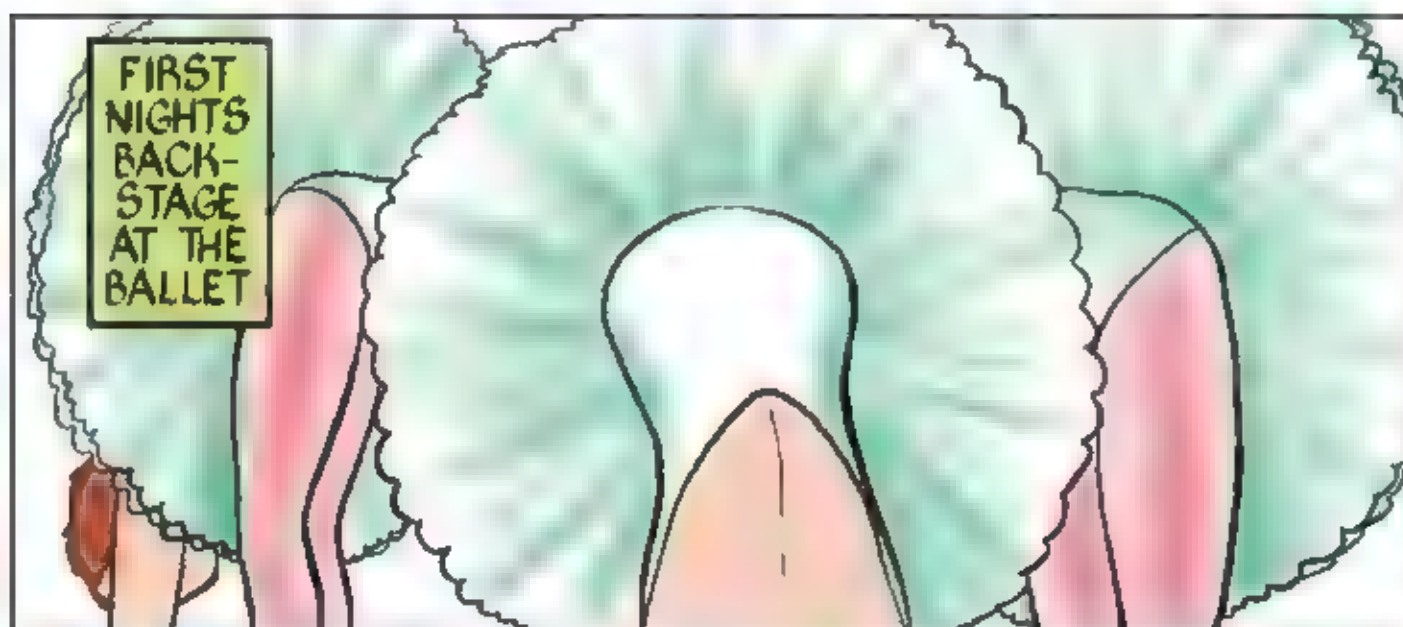
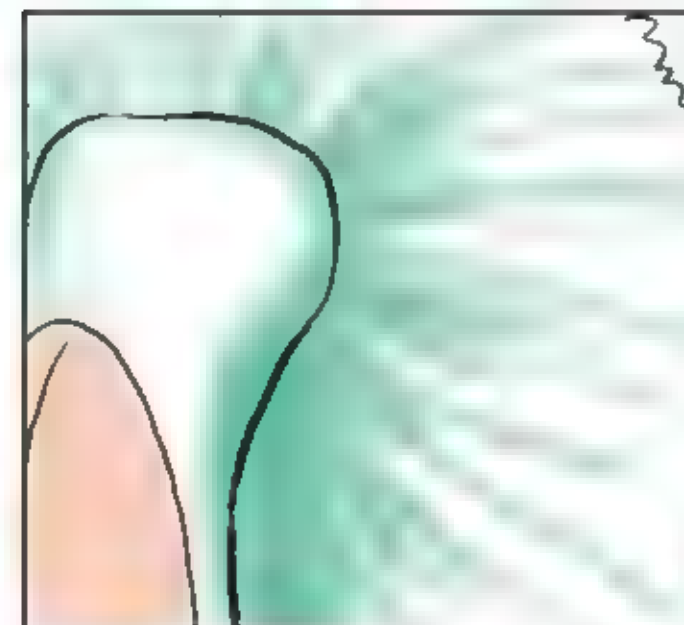
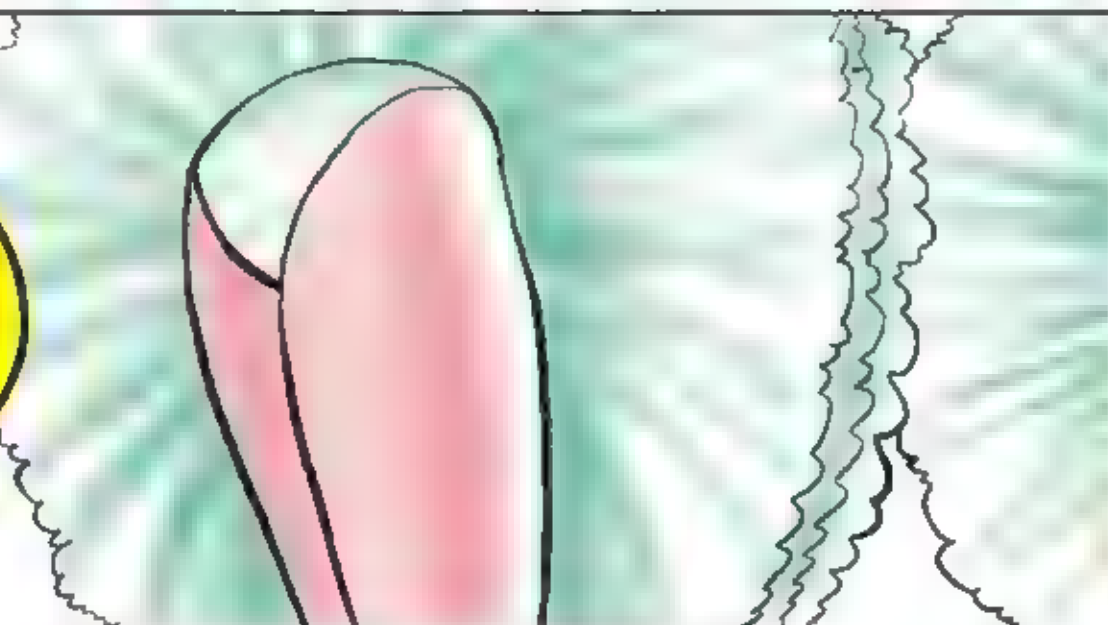




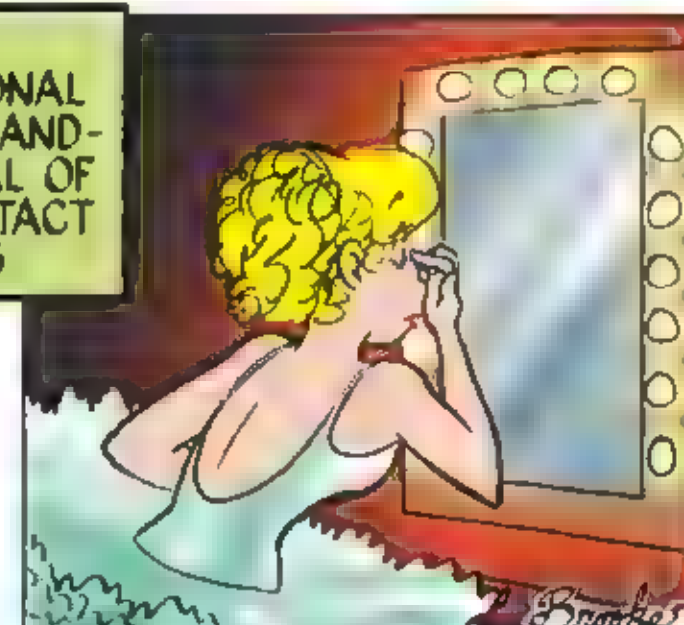
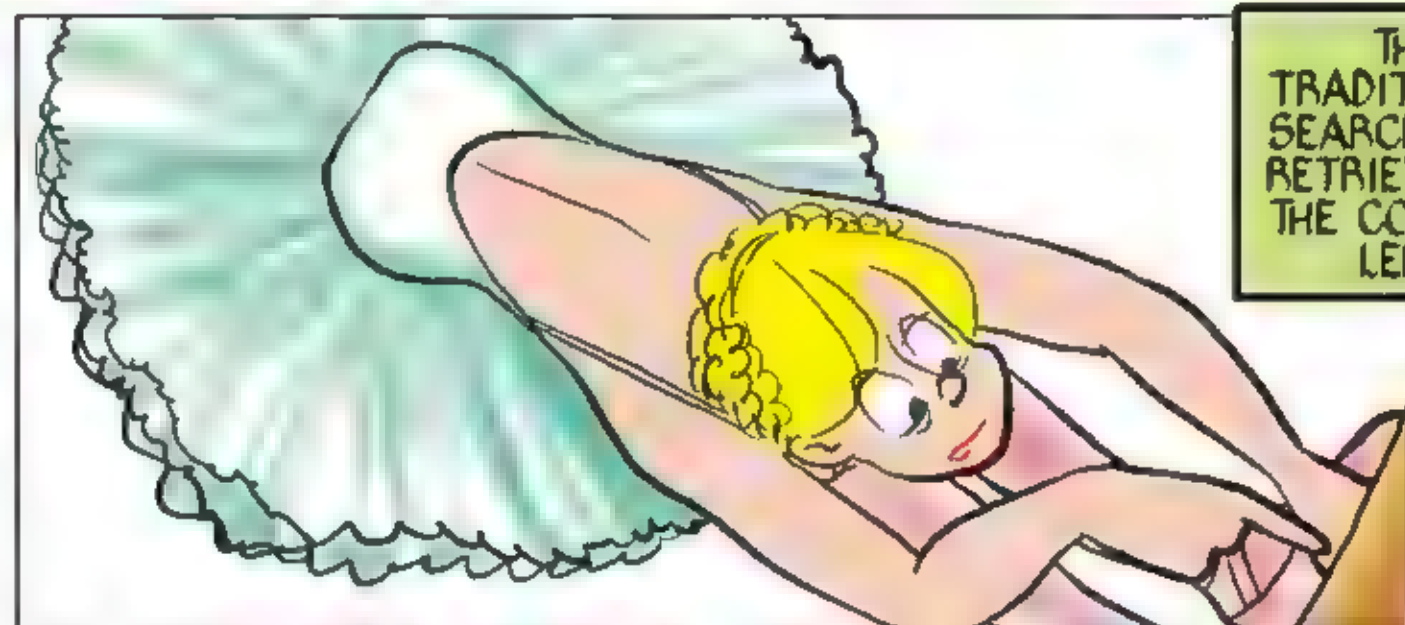
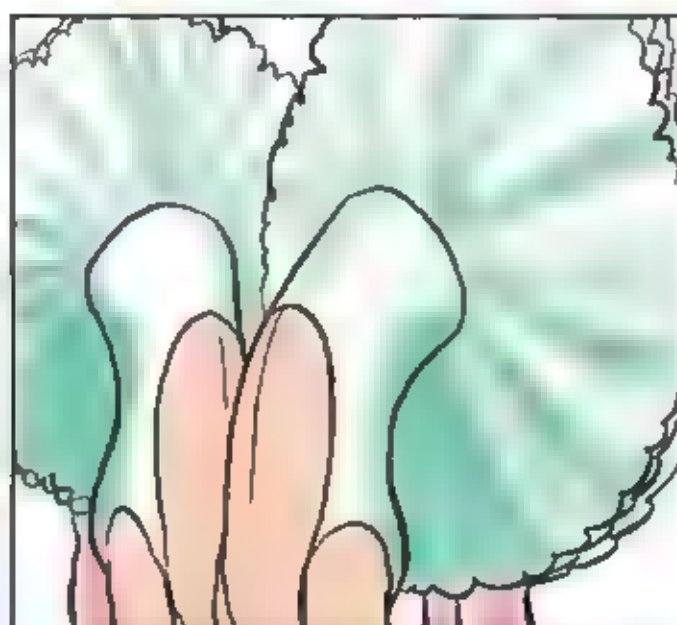
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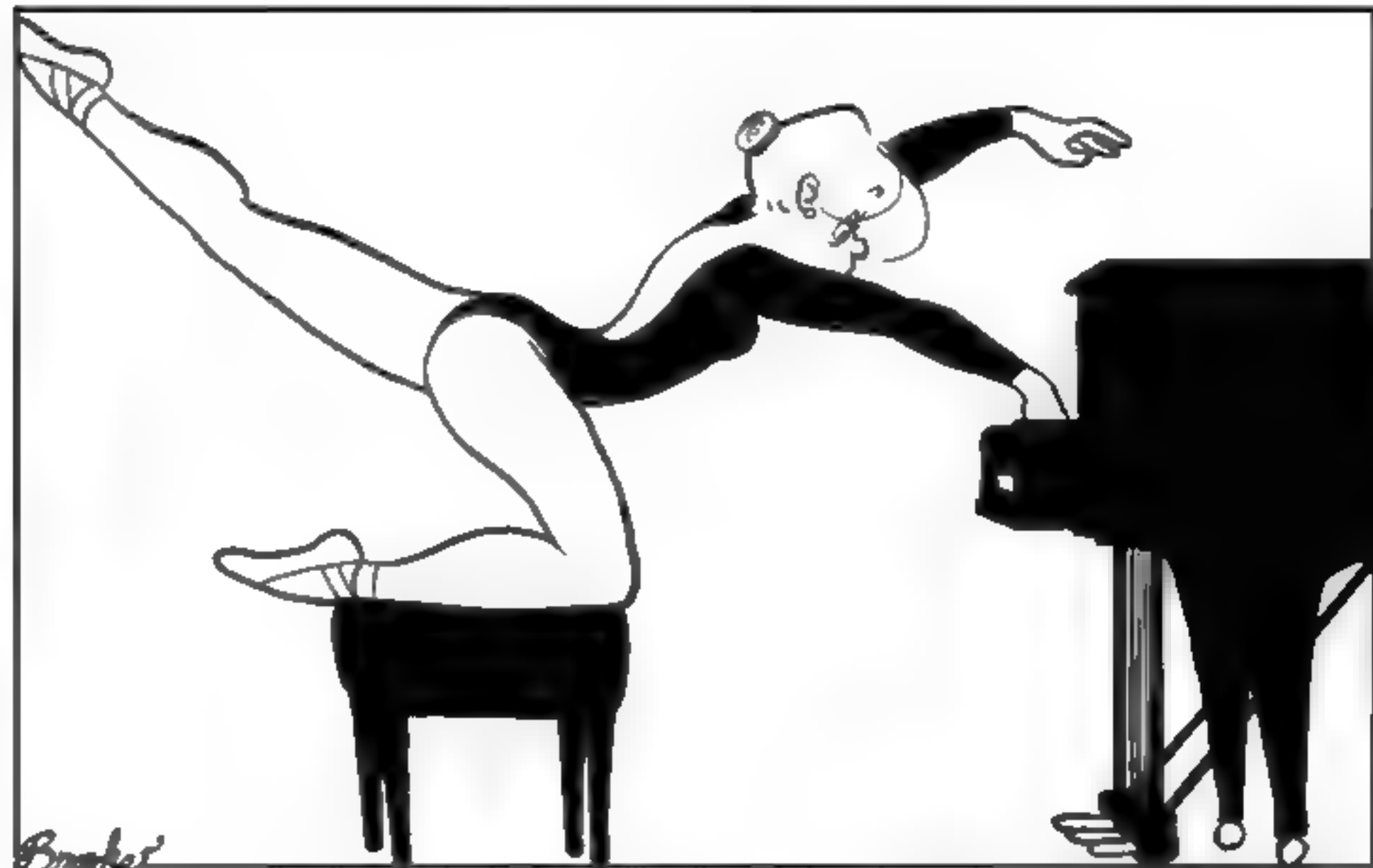
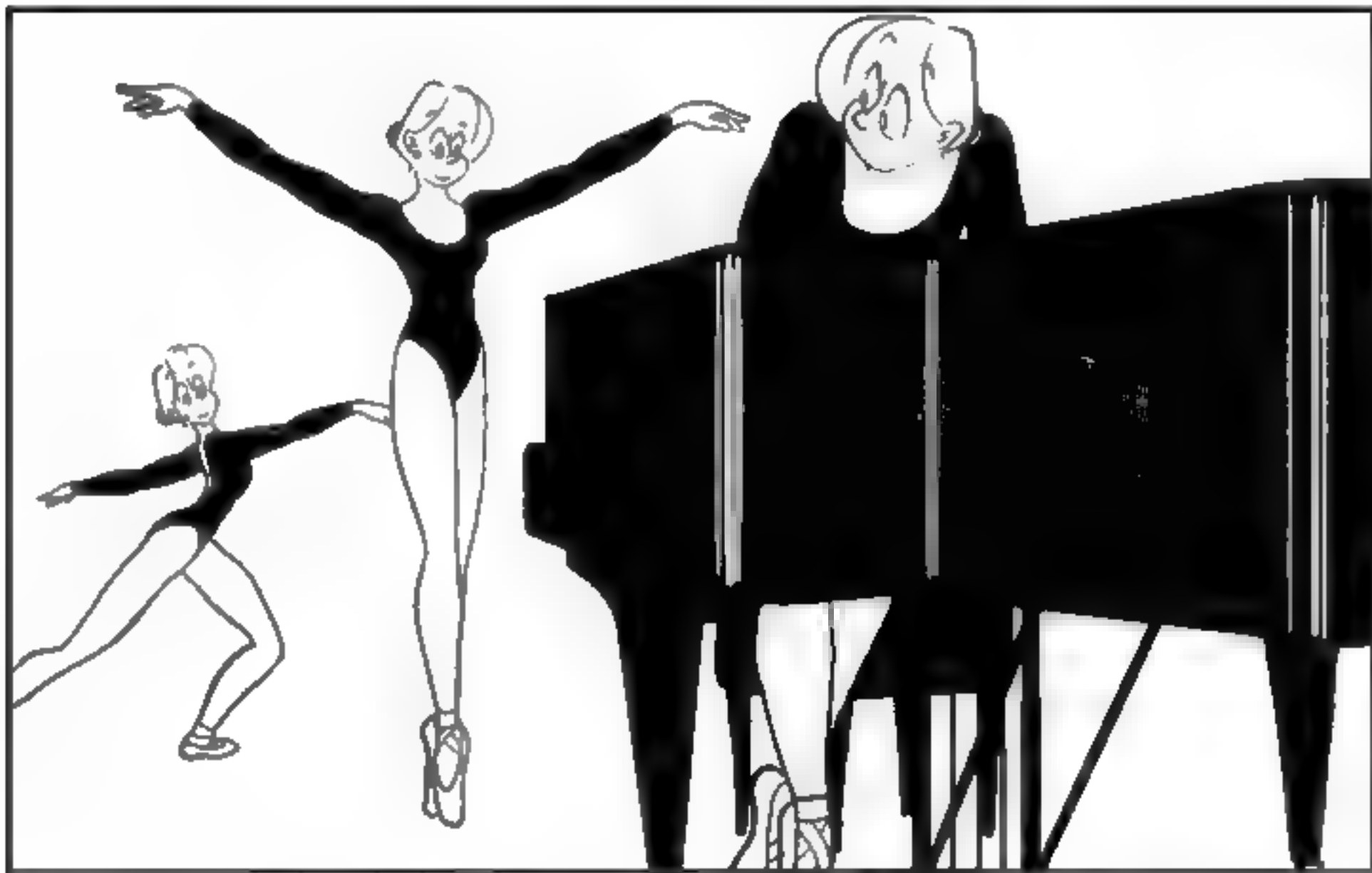






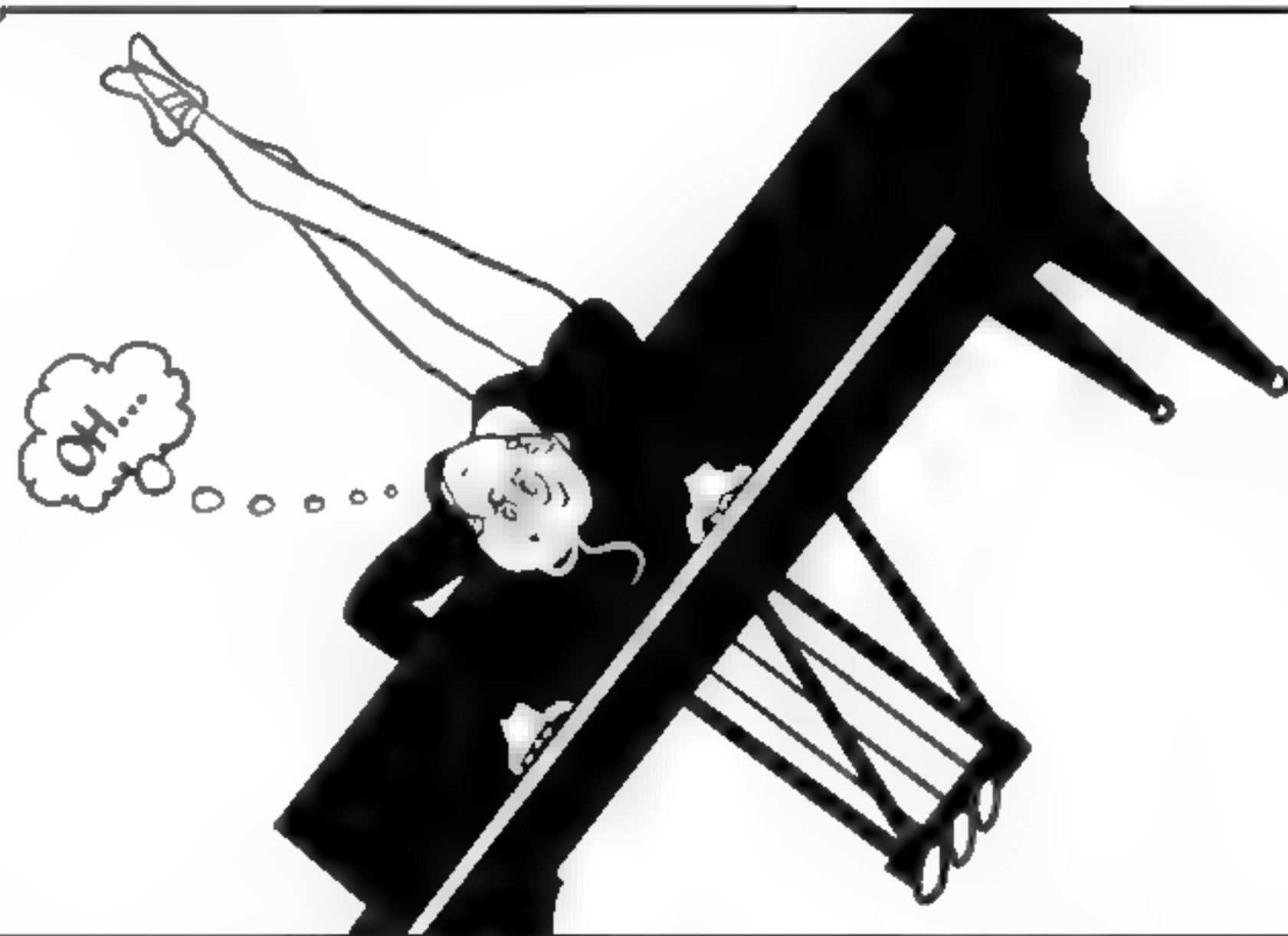
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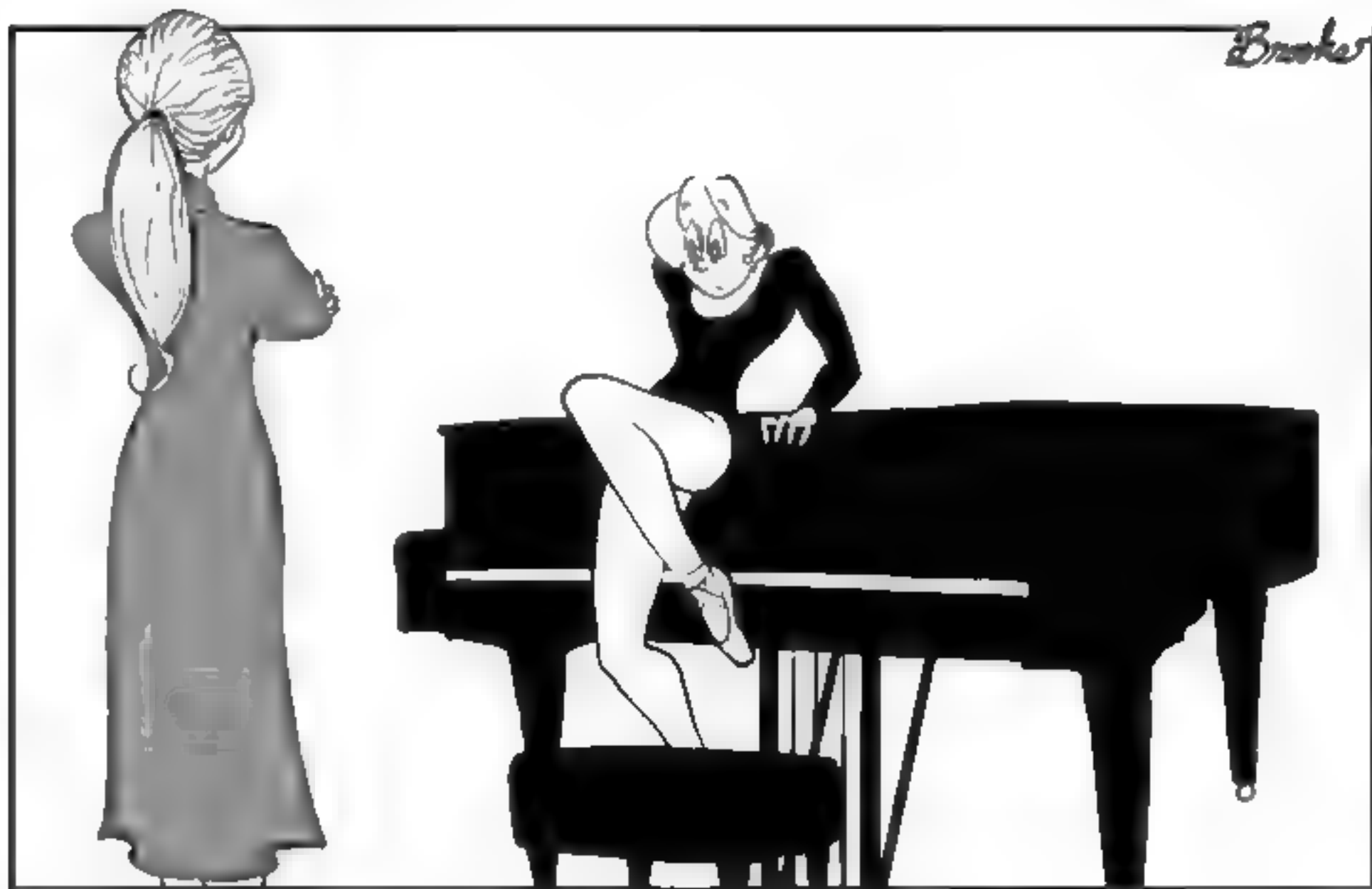






Broken

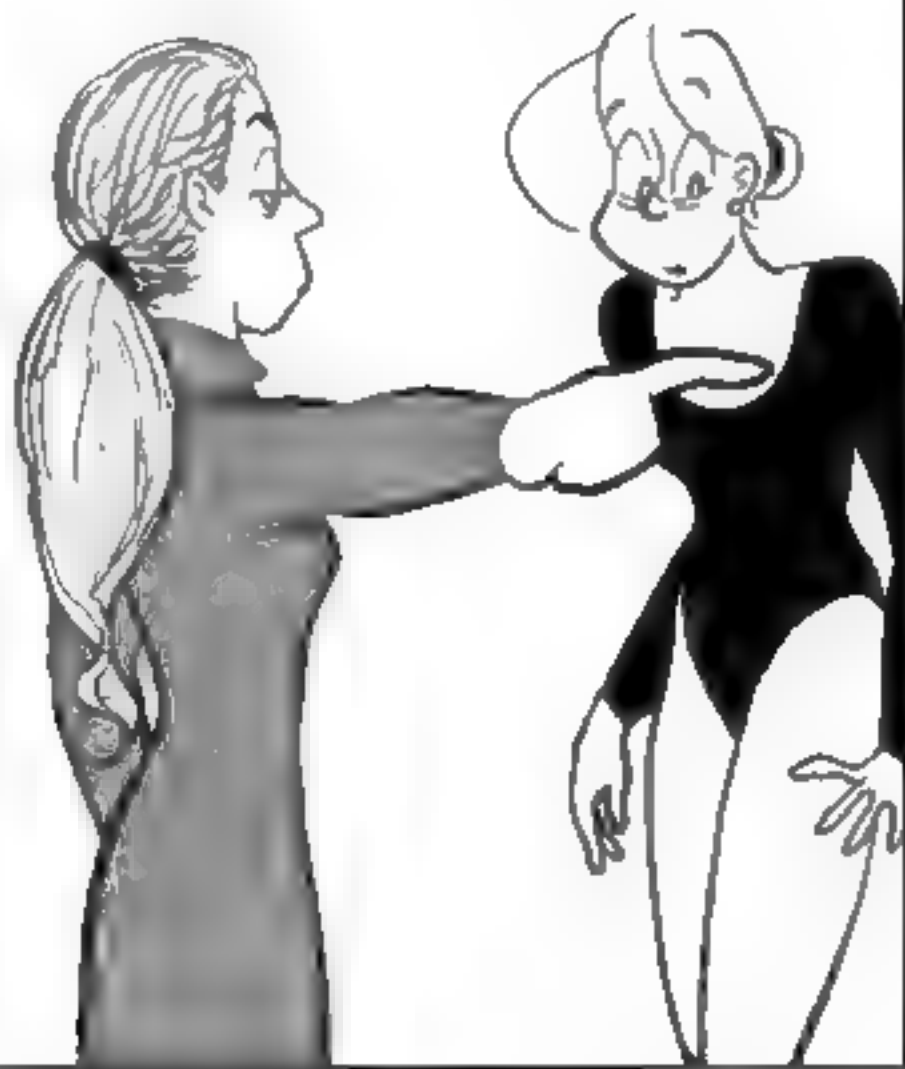




I'M SORRY, I WAS JUST
FIDDLING AROUND...
I MEAN,
PLAYING
THE...



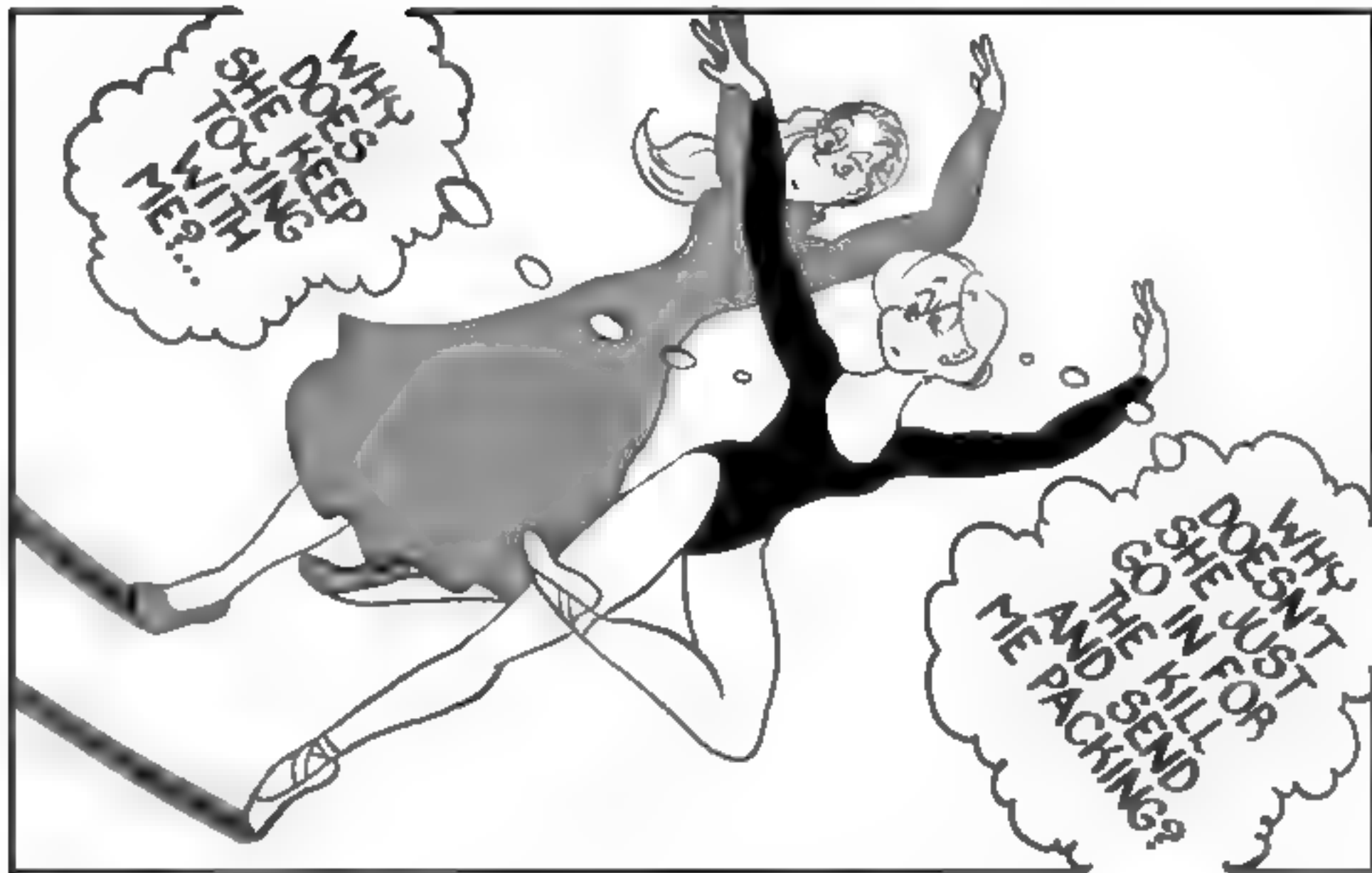
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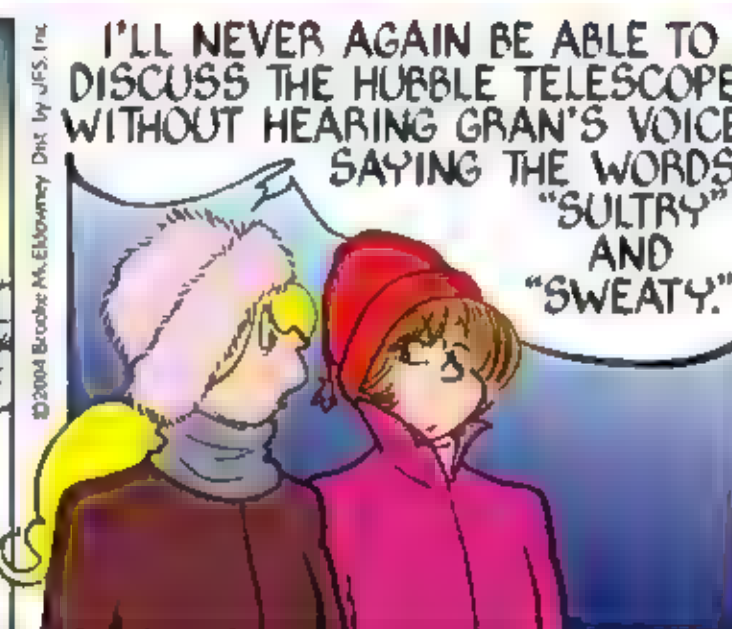
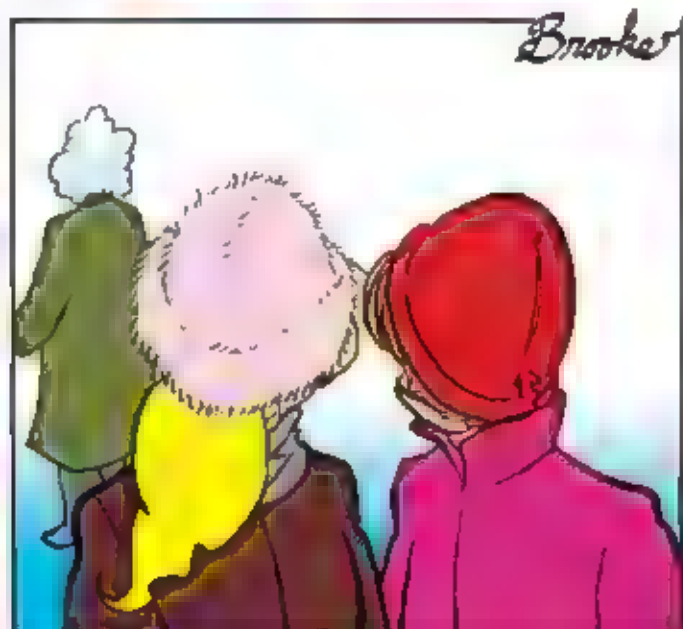
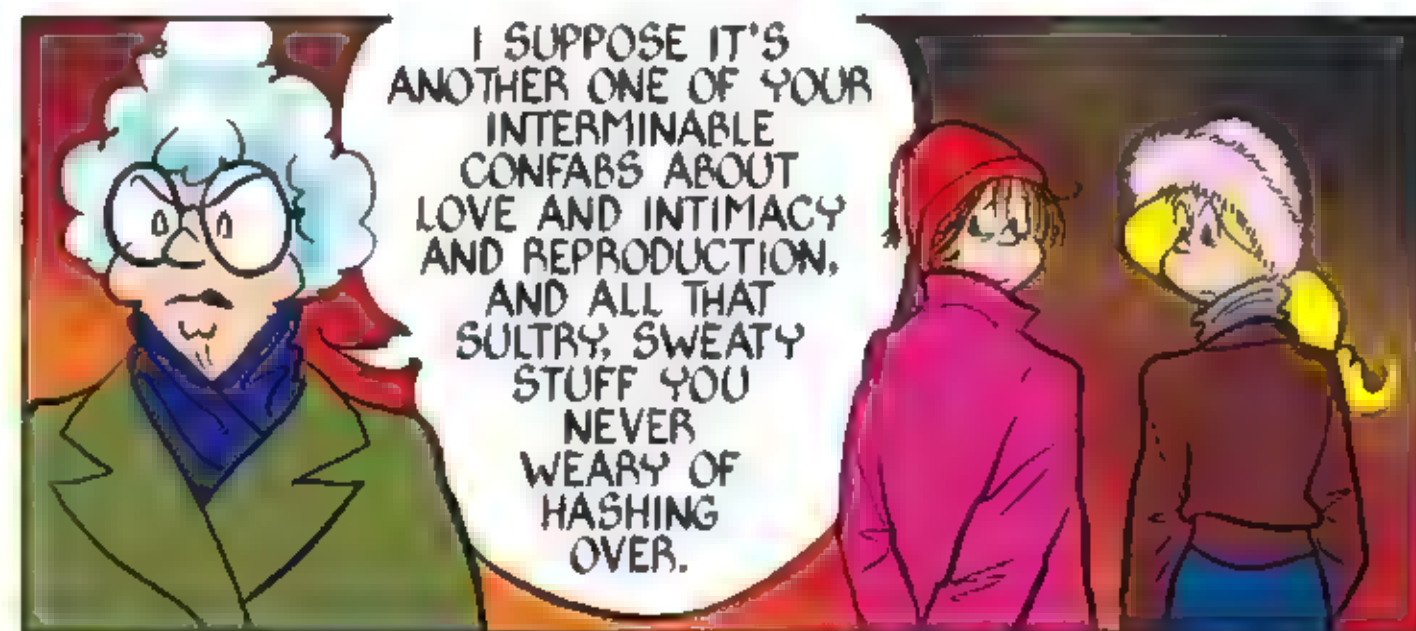
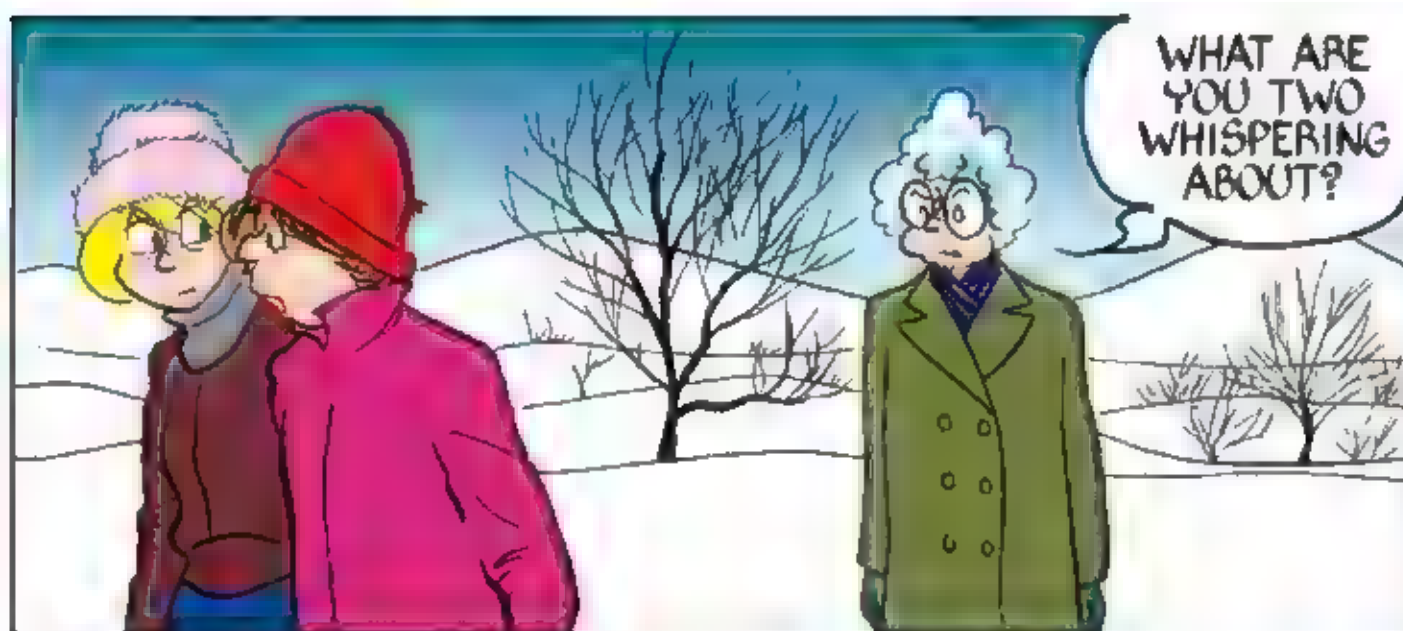


Brooke

THIS IS
REALLY
GOING
WELL.



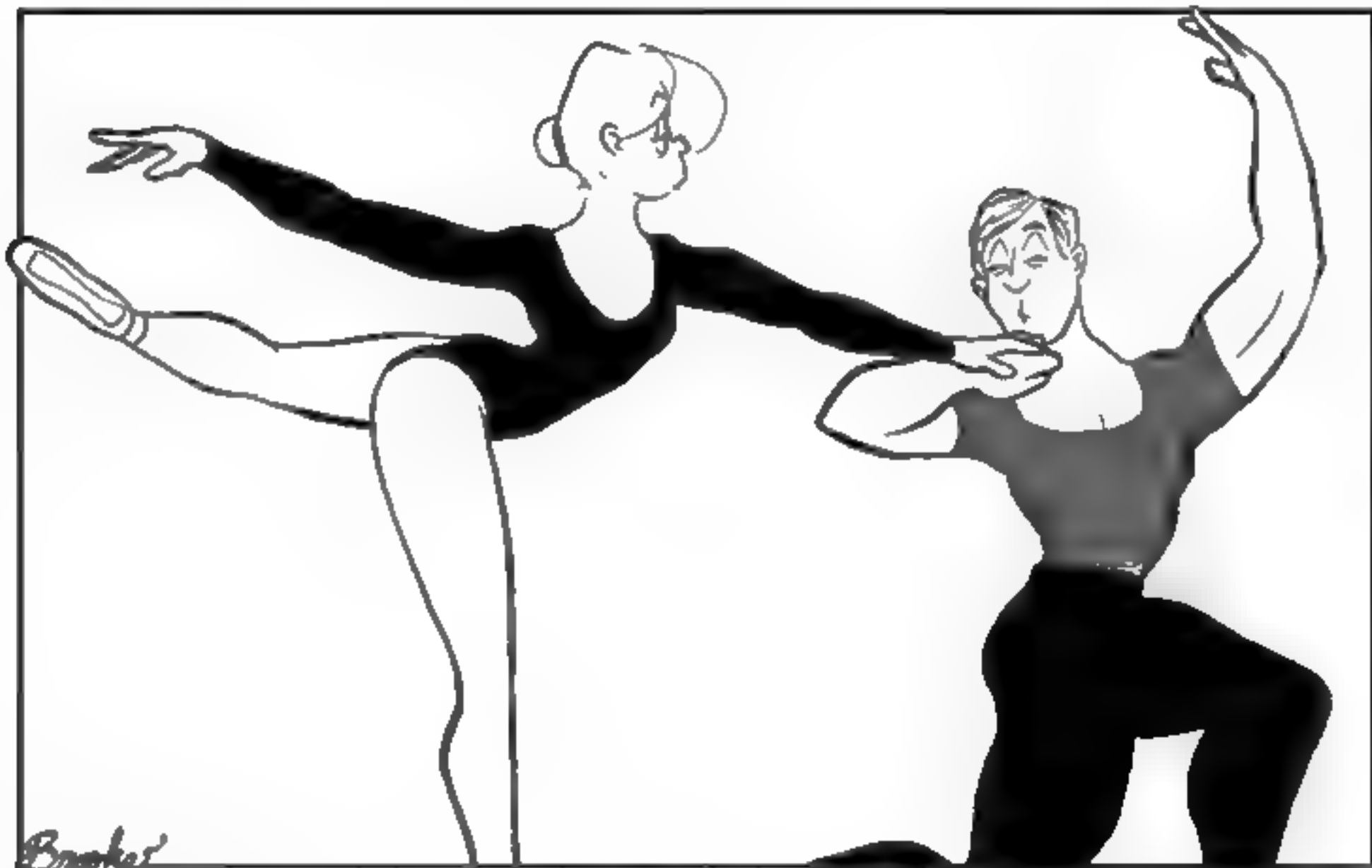












NORMAN SAID HE WANTED
YOU, BUT I HAD TO
SEE FOR MYSELF.
...WELCOME TO
THE COMPANY.
WHEN CAN
YOU BEGIN?

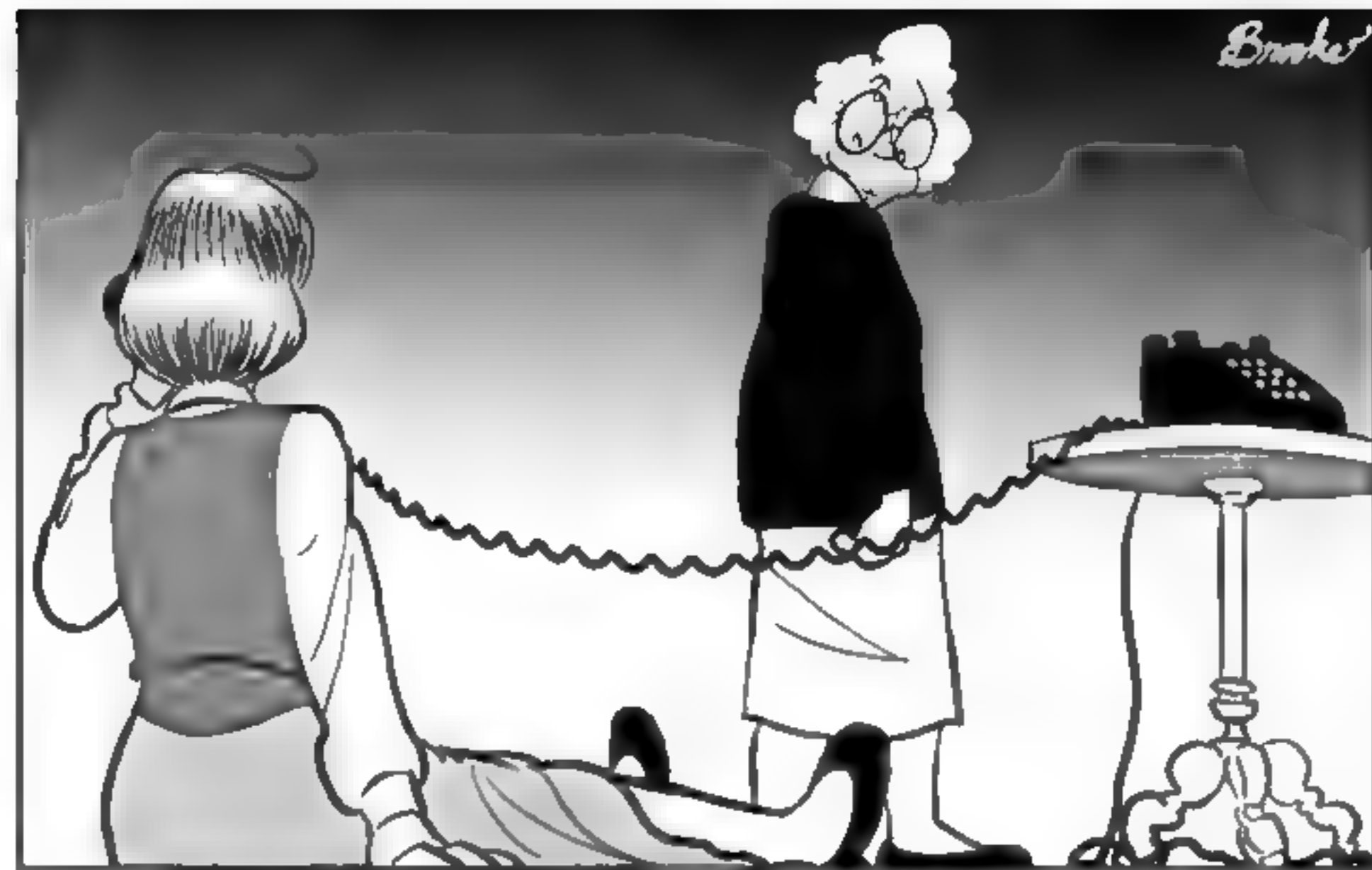
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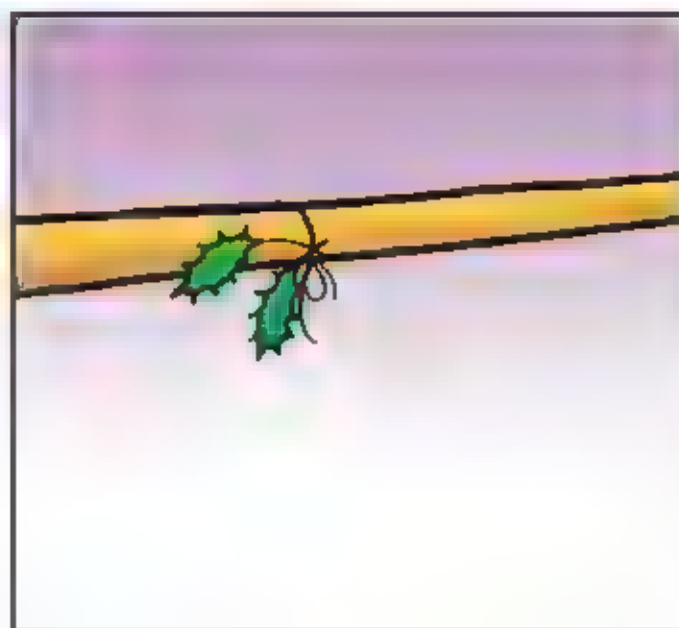
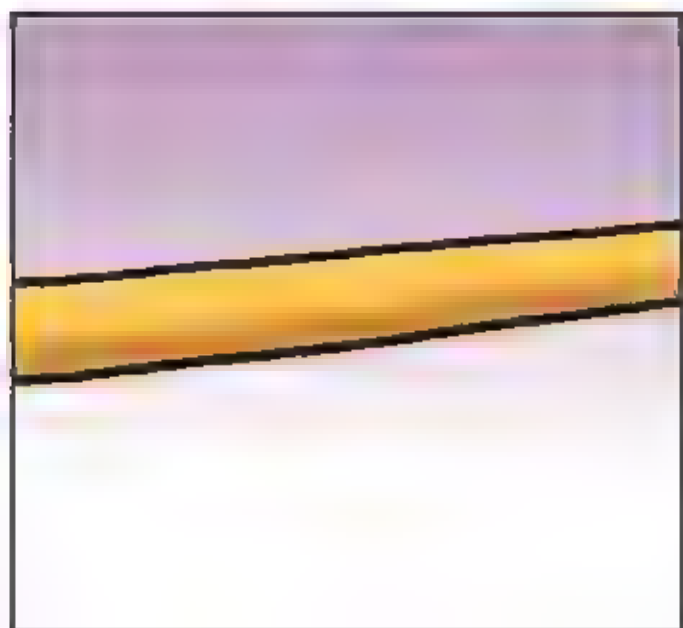
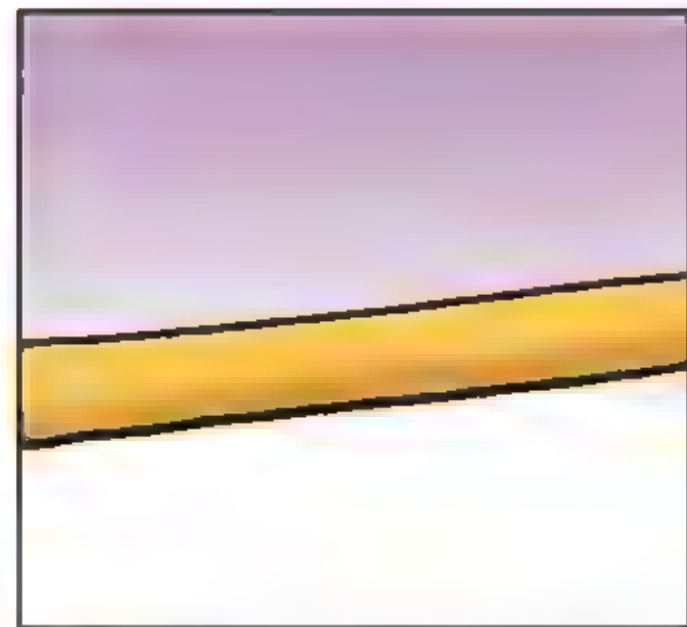
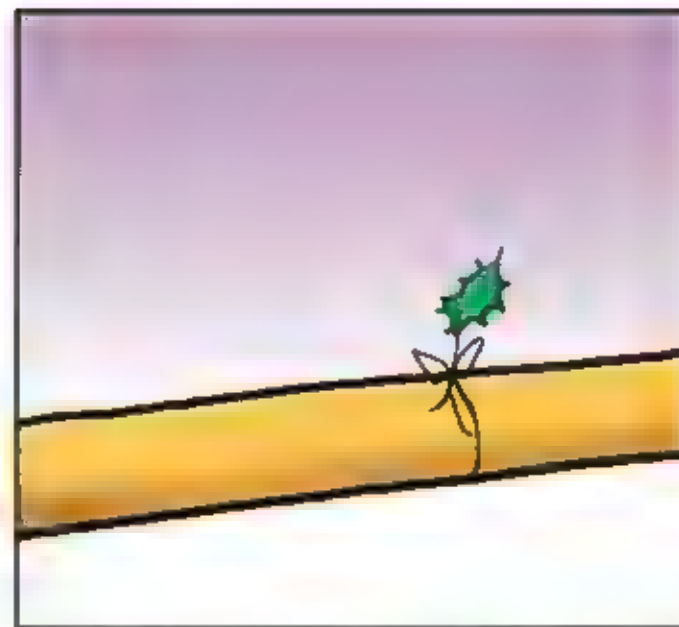
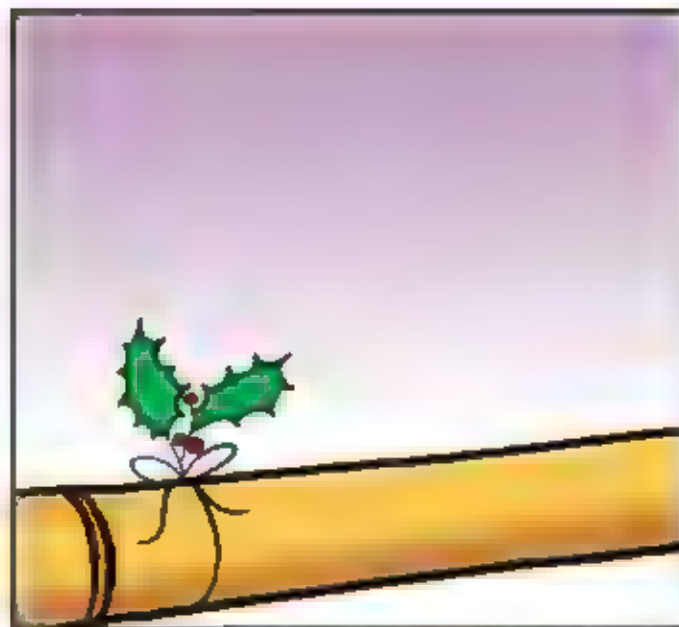
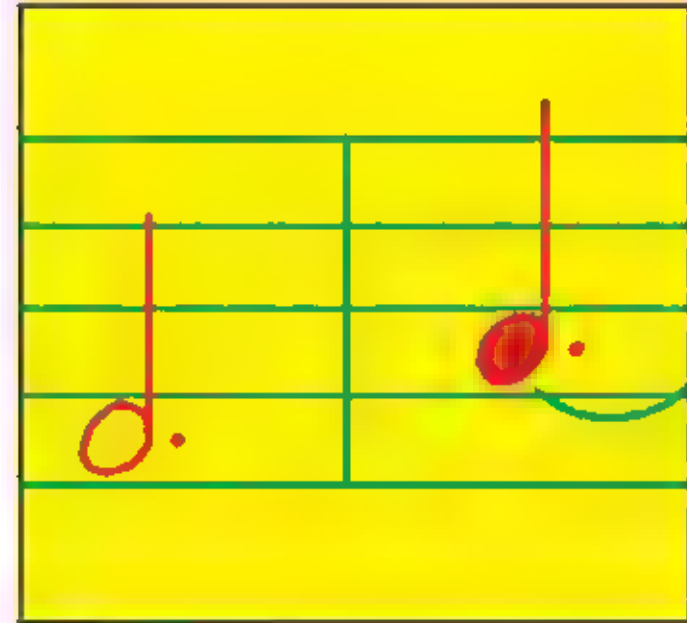
Brooke

I LOVE IT
WHEN THEY
DO THAT.



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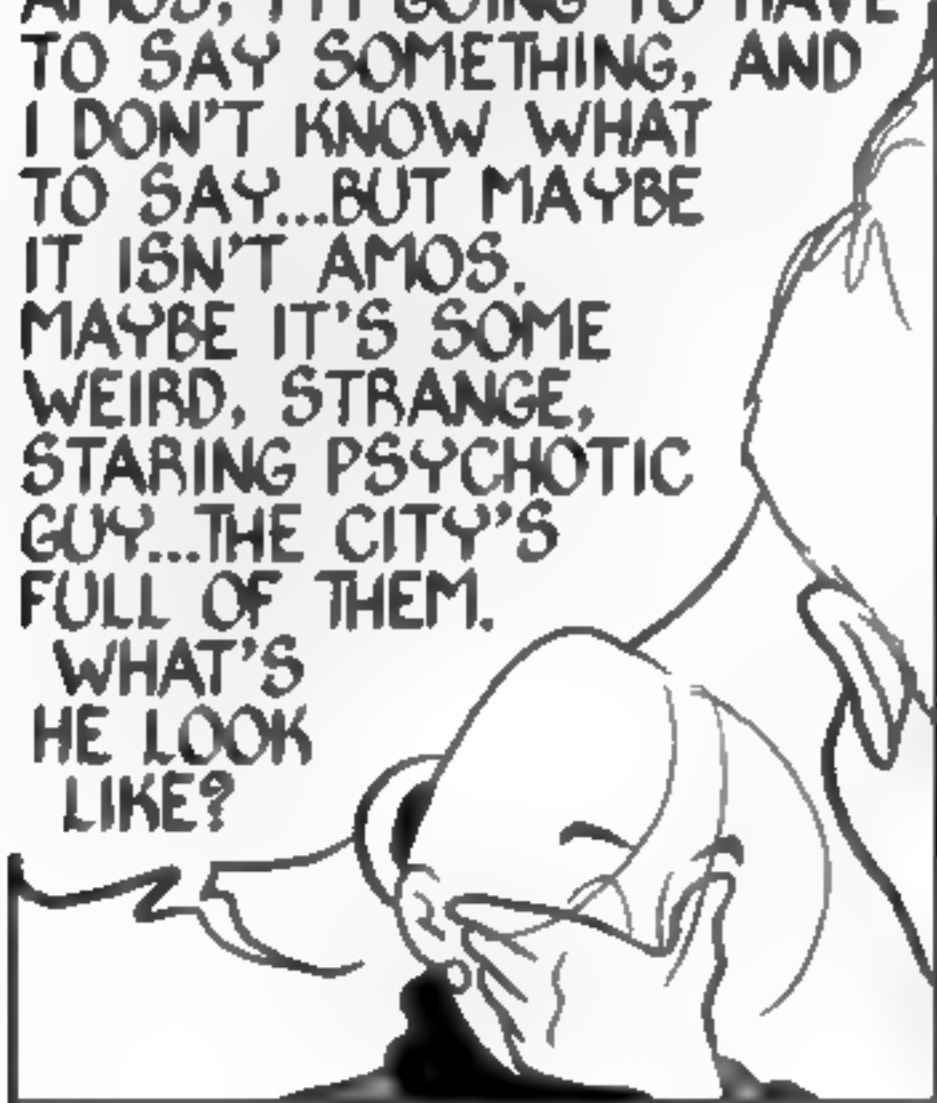
COOL SHADES
AND GREAT
CHRISTMAS RIFF...
BUT THIS IN NO
WAY SOFTENS MY
RESOLVE AGAINST
CALLING YOU
"DIZZY."

Broder





IF I TURN AROUND AND IT'S AMOS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...BUT MAYBE IT ISN'T AMOS. MAYBE IT'S SOME WEIRD, STRANGE, STARING PSYCHOTIC GUY...THE CITY'S FULL OF THEM. WHAT'S HE LOOK LIKE?



Dreamy.



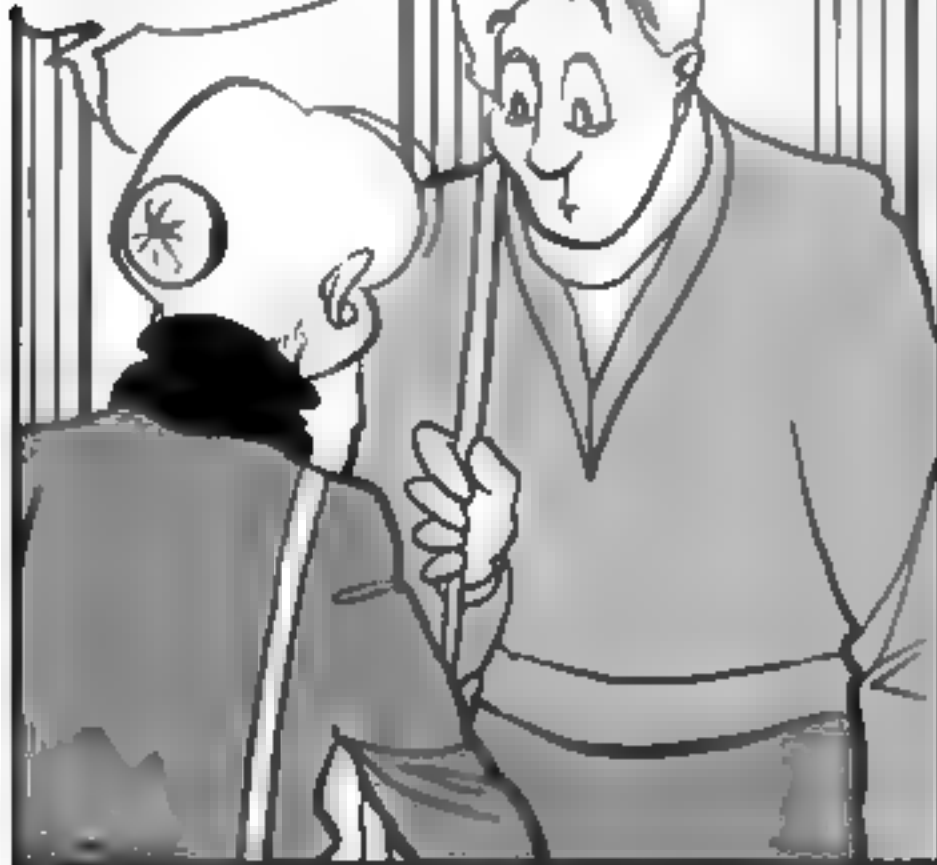
Brooke



YEAH, OK... BUT IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I COULD USE MORE SPECIFIC IMAGES...



I DON'T WANT TO LOOK
TO SEE IF IT'S AMOS.
JUST TRY TO
DESCRIBE
HIM.

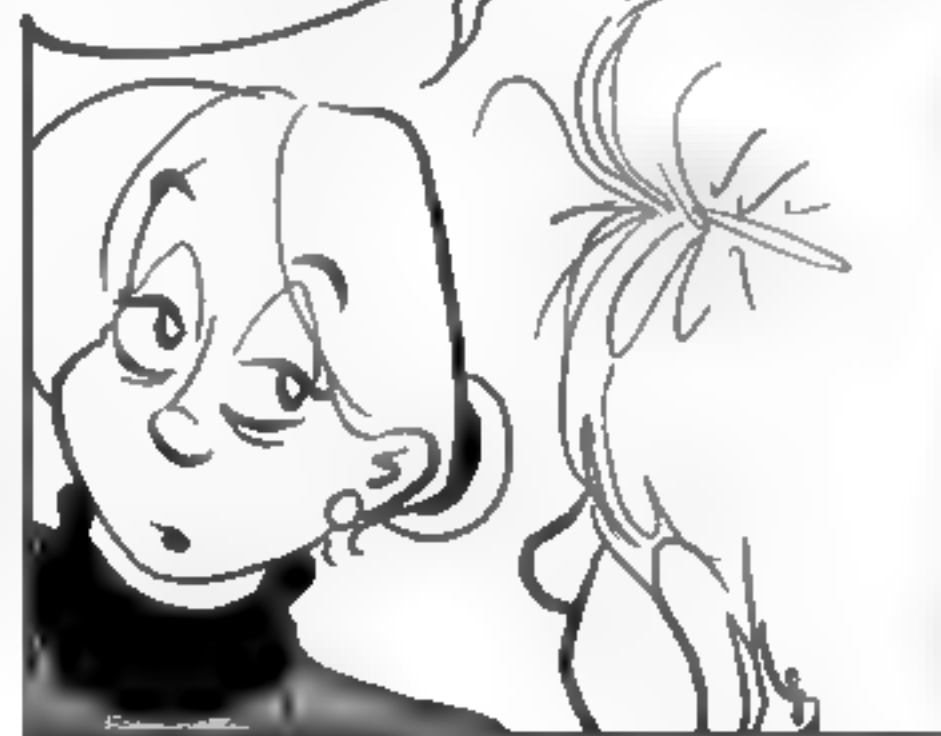


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WELL, HE HAS LUXURIANT
HAIR STRUGGLING TO BURST
LOOSE INTO RAVEN CURLS...
...FIERY, DARK
EYES...
SENSITIVE,
THIN
LIPS...



UH-HUH, BUT HOW MANY
QUARTERS
COULD HE FIT
INTO HIS
NOSE AT
A MOMENT'S
NOTICE?



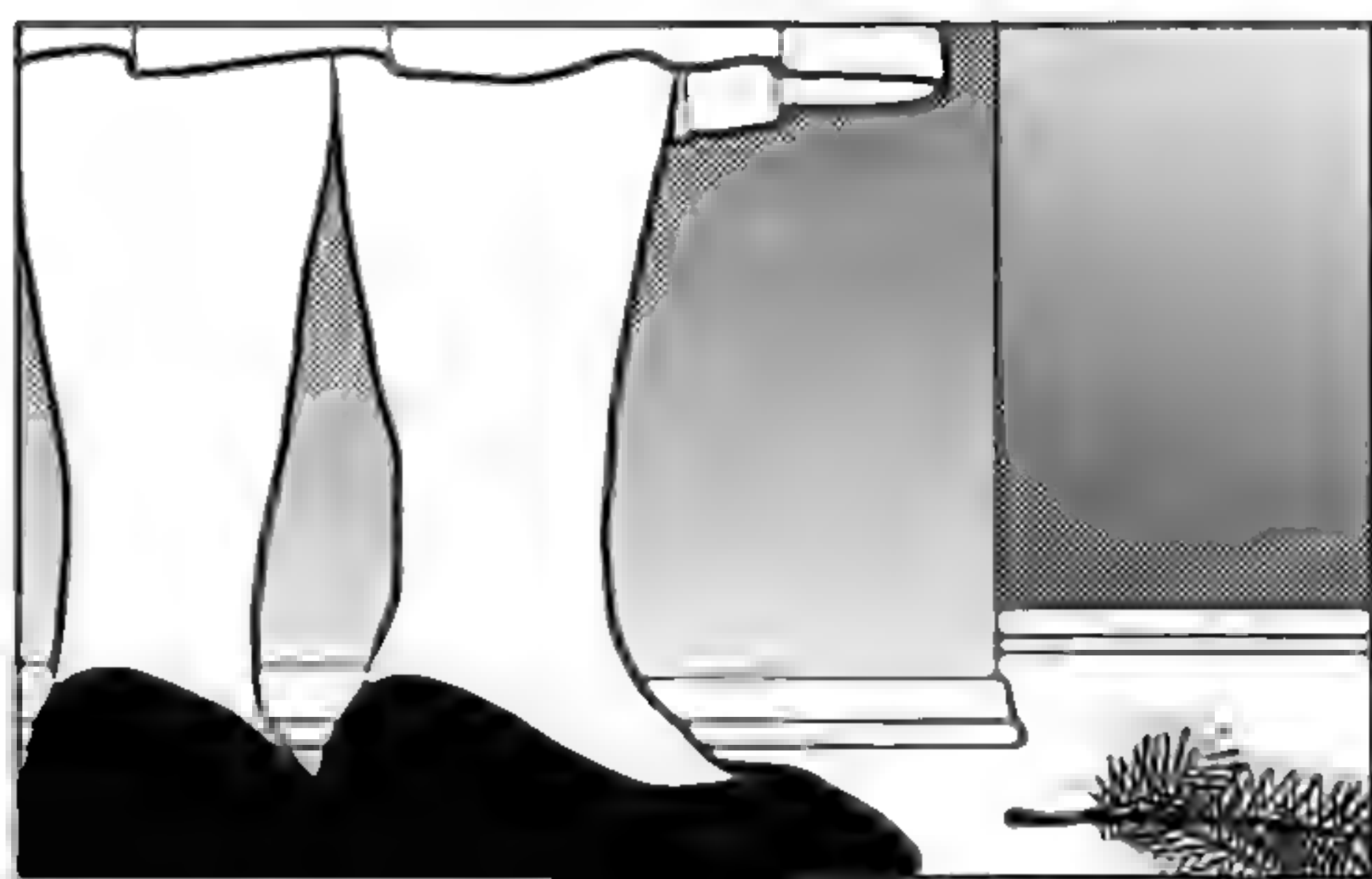
ABOUT
\$2.50
WORTH.

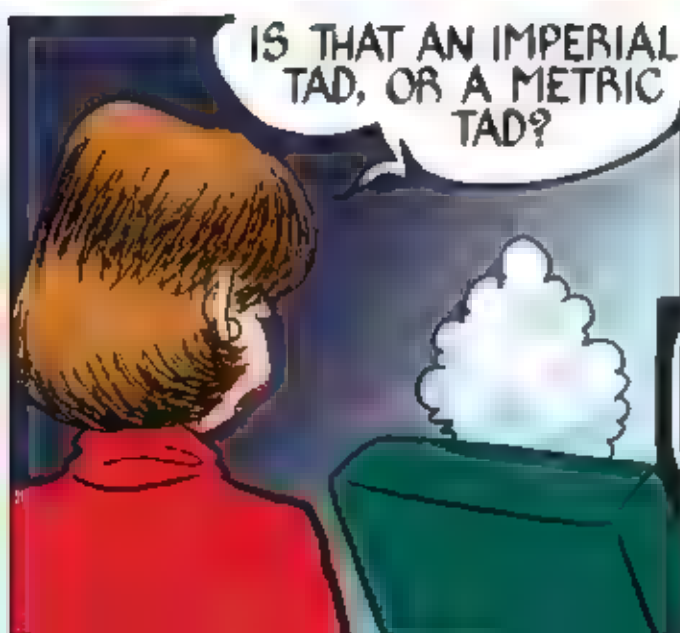
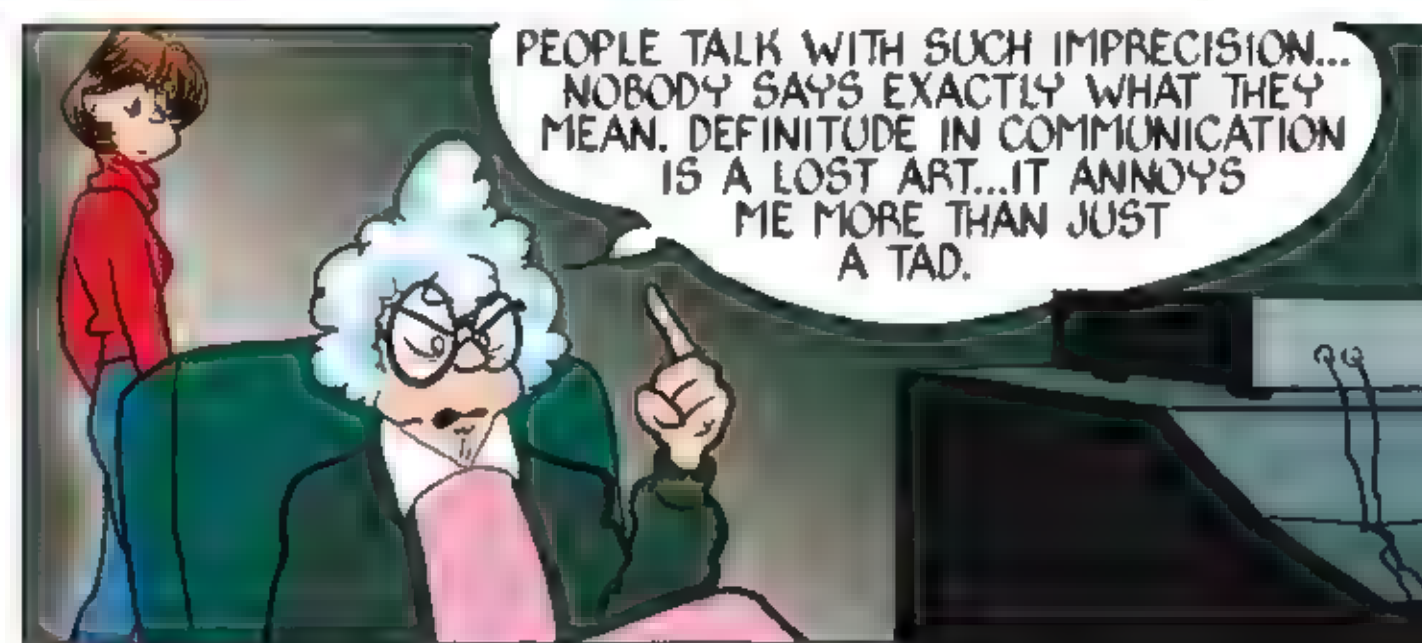
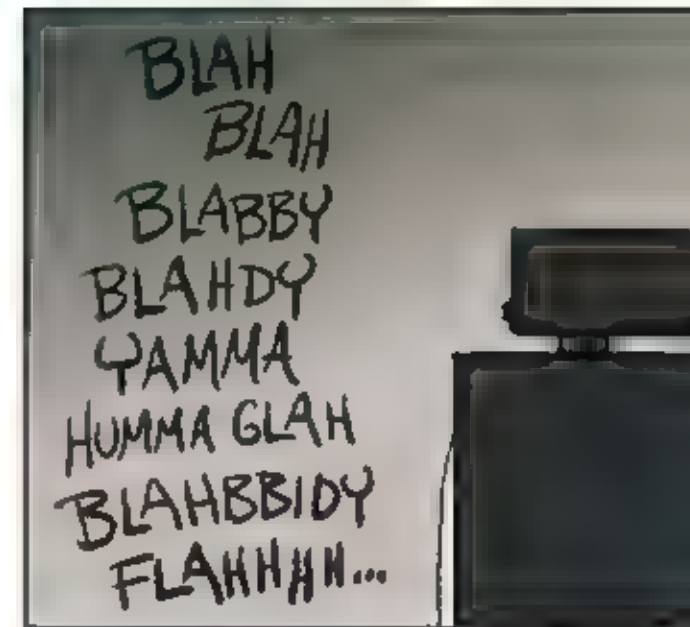
Brooke



IT'S
AMOS.







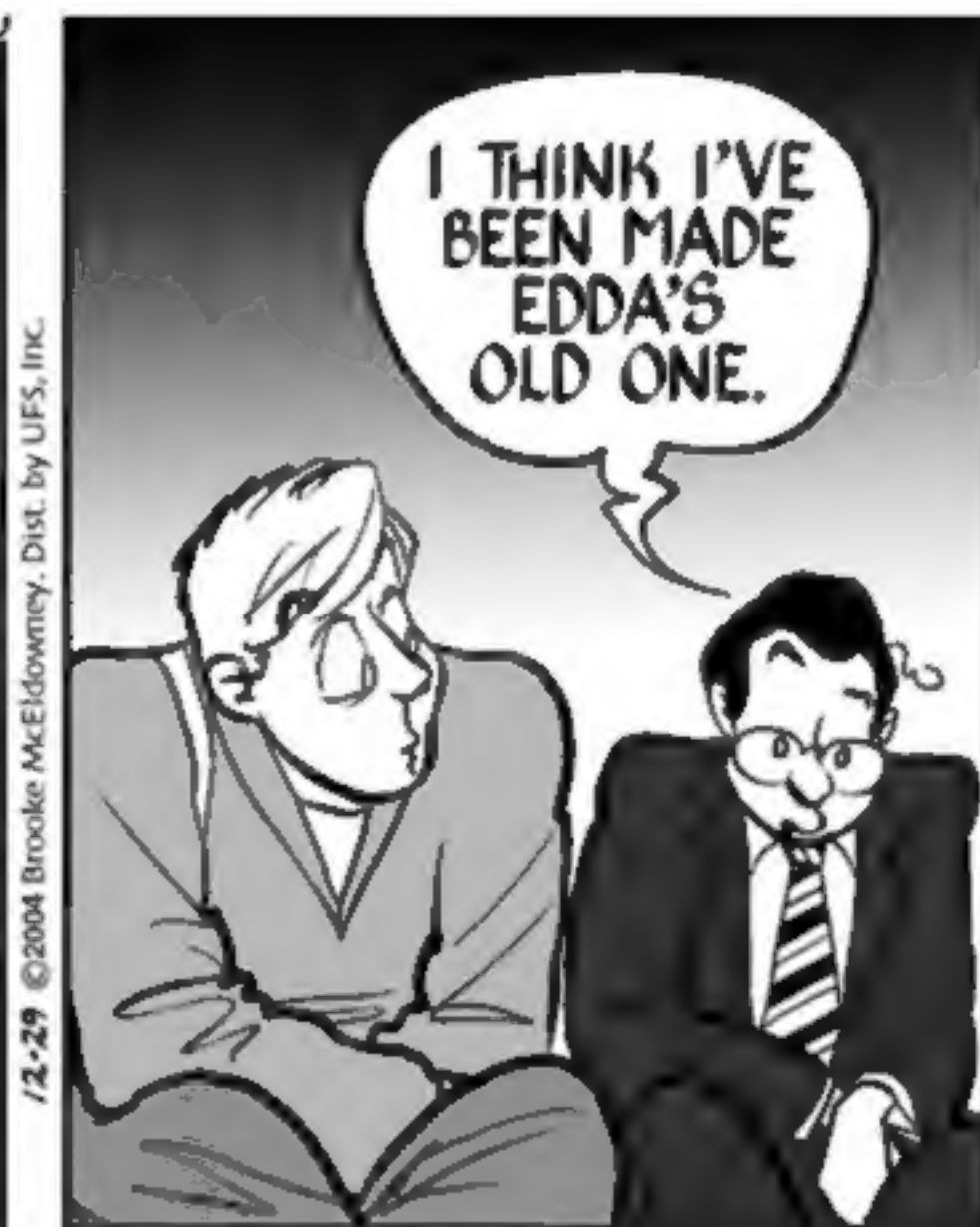




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Brooke



I TOLD THEM I'D NEED TO
DISCUSS THE CONTRACT
WITH YOU
BEFORE I
COULD
SIGN IT.



THEN I WALKED OUTSIDE
THE BUILDING...
...WALKED
BACK INTO
THE OFFICE
AND SIGNED
IT.



NOW, I KNOW THIS MEANS
I WON'T BE GOING TO
COLLEGE FOR A WHILE,
AND IT WAS A BIG
DECISION I
SHOULD HAVE
TALKED OVER
WITH...



I ADMIRE
YOU
SO MUCH!



Brooke

I MADE A DECISION AND
SIGNED A CONTRACT
AND I NEVER
CONFERRED
WITH YOU...
AND YOU
ADMIRE
ME?

YES,
I DO.

✓ YOU DON'T WANT TO
COUNSEL ME, TO URGE
REFLECTION AND DISCUSS
THE MATTER?

NOT IN
THE LEAST.

YOU DON'T EVEN WANT
TO ASK HOW MY
RELATIONSHIP
WITH AMOS
IMPACTED ON
THIS DECISION?

AS LONG AS
MY TEETH
ARE EMBEDDED
IN MY TONGUE...



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